ACROSS / A15

31 dead / retired teachers receiving salaries in ARMM

WORLD / A25

Court rules to bury Nicole Smith's body beside son in Bahamas

WORLD / A26

Iraq's insurgents now mixing car bombs with chlorine

CORRECTION BOX / A4

In PDI's list of medical board exam passers, 23 names were inadvertently omitted

SPORTS/ A20

Gin Kings close out Beermen for seventh PBA title

CGFNS to '06 nurses: Forget appeal, take test

By Nikko Dizon

THE COMMISSION ON GRADUATES OF FOREIGN Nursing Schools (CGFNS)is standing pat on its decision not to issue VisaScreen certificates to those who passed the tainted June 2006 nursing licensure examination—unless they retake the questionable portions.

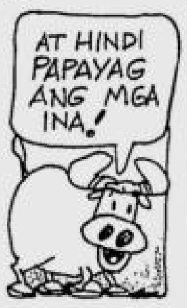
The latest CGFNS statement, posted yester-

CGFNS/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, February 24, 2007 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 78 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Erap defends JV, denies Jinggoy is taking over

By Norman Bordadora and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.


AT HINDI PAPAYAG ANG MGA INA!

DEPOSED PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada yesterday came to the defense of his son, San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, and said there were no plans

ERAP/ A4

'President may be liable'

Melo Report says killings state's responsibility under int'l law

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo may be held accountable under international law if the political killings remain unresolved and unabated under her watch, according to the Melo Commission.

In its 86-page report, the commission led by former Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo warned that the government could not "sit idly by and refuse to act."

"Ultimately, the State has the responsibility of protecting its citizens and making sure that their fundamental liberties are respected," it said.

The commission drew attention to a growing worldwide consensus for state responsibility for non-state acts.

"T[his] posits that if the State fails to investigate, prosecute or redress private, non-state acts in violation of fundamental liberties, it is in effect aiding the perpetrators of such violations, for which it could be held responsible under international law," it said.

But Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, who furnished the Malacañang Press Corps a copy of the report on Thursday, countered: "Accusations do not solve the problem; actions do."

Bunye said that "from the beginning, the government has strongly condemned the killings of activists and journalists," and stressed that Ms Arroyo formed the Melo Commission "in order to get to the bottom of the political killings that have plagued the nation for many generations."

He pointed out that the government had even invited members of the international community, such as the European Union and United Nations Special Rapporteur Philip Alston, to help expand the reach of the investigation.

Bunye said Ms Arroyo had "taken decisive action both before the [Melo] report and also in answer to the report, to move the nation forward and stop these killings once and for all."

He added: "The President will continue to take the necessary actions to lay

PRESIDENT/ A19

THE TREE OF LIFE serves as a backdrop of President Arroyo as she keynotes the First Coconut Farmers National Convention at the University of Mindanao in Davao City. In her speech, she says that the distribution of the sequestered coconut levy funds to the farmers has taken so long. But the courts have yet to resolve the issue of the funds' ownership. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

AI warns RP: Act now before violence rules May elections

Volt Contreras

IN A POSTSCRIPT TO THE EXPLOSIVE reports of the Melo Commission and a United Nations rights expert on the political killings in the country, Amnesty International has warned that all that effort would go to waste if violence would once more dominate the May polls.

"The election period will be fraught with its own tensions. It is essential that the manifestos of all political parties commit to working strenuously to put an end to the ongoing killings and so minimize the risk of a further escalation of violence during the polls," the London-based rights watchdog said yesterday in a statement.

It said the Melo Report, together with the initial findings of Philip Alston, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial executions, "should give the impetus to the government and all political parties and groups to act decisively to end the political killings in the run-up to legislative and local elections in May."

Said Natalie Hill, Amnesty International deputy Asia Pacific director: "The body of evidence is now so compelling that it can no longer be ignored: There is substantial confirmation of the pattern of political killings in the Philippines."

But for all that, Amnesty International

AI WARNS/ A19

'Kiko' to go; Gringo, Goma, Paredes eyed to replace him

By Dona Pazzibugan and Norman Bordadora

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER FRANCIS Pangilinan rejected a Genuine Opposition invitation for him to attend its Manila proclamation rally today, and opposition sources said the independent senator might be dropped from GO's senatorial slate.

A leading opposition candidate, Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero, said he would not be surprised if GO's executive council left Pangilinan out of its ticket.

Reached by the INQUIRER, detained former President Joseph Estrada only said: "I cannot comment on that. We will probably know after the proclamation rally tomorrow."

Pangilinan insisted he could not be compelled to show up at today's opposition rally at Plaza Miranda in Quiapo, or join other campaign sorties as he was only a "guest candidate" of GO.

"I will not attend the (proclamation rally) because I am not an official member of GO. I'm only a guest candidate," he said in a statement in Filipino.

"I like to reiterate I am an independent candidate," Pangilinan stressed.

For the past two weeks of the campaign, some opposition members have complained that it was unfair for GO to carry Pangilinan on its slate in the face of his refusal to be seen with the rest of the candidates.

Opposition leaders headed by Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, chief of the United Opposition (UNO) party, held an emergen-

KIKO/ A4

INSIDE PCGG 21 YEARS LATER

No more assets to protect in RPN 9, IBC 13

By Fernando del Mundo and Margaux C. Ortiz

(Third of a series)

NOWHERE IS THE RECORD OF THE Presidential Commission on Good Government more dismal than in its operation of the largest television networks during the martial law years—Radio Philippines Network (RPN 9) and Intercontinental Broadcasting Corporation (IBC 13).

They are now destined to be consigned to the scrap heap of the industry under present circumstances.

Employees of these two stations say they are struggling to make both ends meet while PCGG-appointed managers enjoy perks beyond that allowed by its own code of ethics—no more than P12,000 a month.

Edwin Fargas, a former RPN 9 vice president, says PCGG appointed officials were getting in the 1990s as much as P30,000 a month— "quite a lot at that time." But in fact the more contentious issue is the networks' steady march down the drain since the PCGG takeover.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to inter-

NO MORE/ A6

SPECIAL REPORT

Chavit an 'investor' in Metrowalk, PCGG admits

By Daxim L. Lucas

CHANCES ARE, ANY AVID BUYER OF PIRATED movies in DVD format has heard of or shopped in the popular Metrowalk Commercial Complex along Meralco Avenue in Pasig City.

Chances are, too, that any visitor to Metrowalk has heard whispers and rumors as to who really owns the busy shopping and dining center that sits on a prime piece of real estate that is being managed by the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG).

"Chavit" is the name most often associated with the valuable—and sometimes, controversial—property.

Indeed, the involvement of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson in Metrowalk Commercial Complex has always been a matter of conjecture. Recently, however, the PCGG confirmed the rumors that the influential politician has never admitted to: that Singson is directly involved in the property.

"He is an investor in Pasig Printing," PCGG Commissioner Ricardo M. Abcede said in an interview with the INQUIRER, when asked about Singson's interest in Metrowalk.

Abcede was refering to Pasig Printing Corp. which stands as the lessee of a

CHAVIT/ A6

Neda chief: Some gov't regulatory firms 'captured' by big business

DAVAO CITY—IN A RARE DISPLAY OF candor, the government's main economic policy-maker yesterday said state regulatory agencies have been "captured" by big business and working largely to benefit the latter instead of protecting the interest of the people.

"That's the problem. The interests of business have been very influential with the regulators," said Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri.

This is why people pay higher prices for goods and services offered by businesses that are supposed to be regulated by these state agencies, he said.

"The people are losing because they have to pay higher prices," said Neri who heads the National Economic and Development Authority.

Neri cited as one example two crucial service sectors, the ports and airlines, which government has been trying to de-monopolize for years to introduce more competition and bring down transport costs.

The poor state and management of the country's port facilities has been largely blamed for the inefficient movement of

NEDA CHIEF/ A6

EZ2 27 24
FOUR DIGIT 7 5 3 5
SUERTRES Mid-Day 5 7 9 | Evening 5 5 4
(All in exact order)
MEGALOTTO 6/45
4 10 11 16 37 41
P37,956,407.40

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph **Website:** www.inquirer.net/nation
Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. Mindanao will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/02/23/07 SOURCE PAGASA

Bets fear loss of GO official status

By Jerome Aning and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

OPPOSITION SENATORS YESTERDAY WARNED the Commission on Elections against declaring President Macapagal-Arroyo's political party, Kampi, as the "dominant minority party" that would shut out the opposition from representation in key election activities.

"If that happens, it will become a mockery of our electoral system. It's just like a corporation enjoying the benefits of two company unions—Lakas (the ruling party) and Kampi," said Sen. Panfilo Lacson in a text message to the INQUIRER. The United Opposition (UNO) or the new Genuine Opposition (GO) coalition has the right to be declared the dominant minority party, he added.

Under election laws, only two political parties—the dominant majority and minority parties—will be given official election returns. The factors to be considered in determining the two parties include the record of their participation in the previous election, the number of incumbent officials belonging to them and their ability to fill up candidates's slates down to the municipal level.

Senate President Manuel Villar, in an interview with the INQUIRER, said that if Kampi is picked as the dominant minority party, the opposition would be forced to cough up more funds to hire more poll watchers to preempt any attempt at cheating.

Comelec hearing

The Comelec has yet to decide which political party will meet the requirements for "dominant minority" as well as which ones will be entitled to official poll watchers during the May elections.

Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. called all 35 political parties in the country to a hearing on Mar. 15 to give them a chance to air their views on the matter.

The Synchronized Election Law of 1991 (R.A.7116), entitles only six accredited major political parties to one principal watcher each.

The Commission asked the parties to prepare position papers explaining their performance in the previous elections, their organization structure and strengths, and the number of incumbent officials and candidates belonging to them.

The position paper must be submitted within five days after the hearing, with a filing fee of P5,050 per party.

Every candidate is entitled to a watcher but not all will be given official access. Only the principal watchers of the six accredited parties will have access to all polling places as well as canvassing centers in the national and local levels.

Based on the Comelec list of senatorial bets, Lakas-CMD and KBL have seven candidates each. NPC has five, the party-list group Kapatiran has four, while NP and UNO have two each.

MILITANTS raise clenched fists in front of the Edsa Shrine in a lightning rally that caught policemen by surprise. JOAN BONDOC

Militants mark Edsa I with rallies

By Jerome Aning

MILITANTS GROUPS YESTERDAY STAGED separate rallies to mark the 21st anniversary of the first Edsa People Power Revolution.

After failing to hold a rally at the Edsa Shrine in Mandaluyong City, the militant labor group Partido ng Manggagawa gathered instead at the Welcome Rotunda in Quezon City to "bury" the ideals of the bloodless uprising.

Members of the group made a mock burial ground with the epitaph: Here lies Edsa 1 and the people's hopes for change: 1986-2007.

They also carried placards with the messages: "Edsa 1: 21 *taon ng pagtraydor ng mga elitista sa pangarap ng mga tao*, (Edsa 1: 21 years of treason by the elite of the people's hopes)" "Edsa 1 + Edsa 2 = political killings + Hello Garci," "*Walang* real democracy *kung may* political killings, *Walang* good governance *kung may* Hello Garci (No real democracy if there's political killings. No good governance if there's Hello Garci)."

But another leftist group managed to stage a brief rally at the Edsa Shrine.

After converging at the Rochester Street cor. Edsa, the ralliers which police estimated to be between 150 to 200 led by Bayan Muna proceeded toward Ortigas Avenue.

Policemen guarding the Shrine on a 24-hour basis since Feb. 22 were caught by surprise when the ralliers proceeded to the Shrine instead of making a left turn to hold "a short program" at the People Power Monument.

Police just watched as the ralliers held a program. Traffic was also normal.

Mandaluyong Chief Supt. Ericson Velasquez said they had deployed 200 policemen around the Shrine.

But Velasquez noted that the number of ralliers is getting fewer. "They cannot even fill up the triangular space in front." *With a report from Santiago R. Alcantara*

BMW Philippines
www.bmw.com.ph
Sheer Driving Pleasure
A great leap starts with a small step.
M FP 4275
Photo may vary from actual unit

The new BMW 316i for only ₱77,000 down payment.

- Low down payment plan on the 316i, balance payable for up to 5 years
- Flexible ownership plans available for other brand new BMW models
- Sheer Driving Pleasure for years to come

All loan applications will be subject to approval by Security Bank. Promo period: February 1 to February 28, 2007.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0150, series of 2007.

Autohaus BMW 184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis, Quezon City • Tel. (02) 6380734 • Fax (02) 4380419 • **Prestige Cars BMW** 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • Tel.(02) 8928127 to 29 • Fax (02) 8167325 • **Autozentrum BMW** Madrigal Business Park, Commerce Avenue, Alabang, Muntinlupa • Tel. (02) 7726021 to 24 • Fax (02) 7726025
Klassik BMW 20 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City • Tel. (02) 7816688 • Fax (02) 7314433 • **Premier Cars BMW** CGIC Building, San Fernando-Olongapo Highway, City of San Fernando, Pampanga • Tel. (045) 9637777 • Fax (045) 9633355 • **Performance Auto BMW** Magallanes St. cor. P. Burgos St., Cebu City • Tel (032) 2563491• Fax (032) 2563492

One Caring and Sharing Community
12th ASEAN SUMMIT

BMW Philippines Corporation and Petron Corporation.
Proud partners of the Philippine Chairmanship of the 12th ASEAN Summit.

PETRON
Fuel Success.

Leftist groups assail Esperon on Joma clip

By TJ Burgonio and Christian V. Esguerra

ACTIVIST GROUPS YESTERDAY ACCUSED Armed Forces chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon of trying to justify the "extrajudicial killings" by lumping together unarmed left-wing activists and armed communist rebels.

The groups were reacting to Esperon's release on Thursday of a video of communist party leader Jose Ma. Sison saying that some party-list groups had links to the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF). Esperon claimed this was proof they were legal fronts of the armed, underground movement.

"In a way, Esperon is admitting without saying that they're the ones behind (the killings), and the justification is that (the victims) are members of the national democratic movement," lawyer Neri Colmenares of the left-leaning Bayan Muna in a press conference yesterday.

Humanitarian law

Colmenares, Bayan Muna nominee in the May party-list election, said the government's decision to release the old video was tantamount to an "affirmative defense" of the murder of over 700 political activists over the past five years.

He stressed that the military was bound by international humanitarian laws that bar the killing of innocent civilians—including unarmed political activists.

In the video, Sison said Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Gabriela, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, Kilusang Mayo Uno, League of Filipino Students, Alliance of Concerned Teachers and other groups were connected with the NDF.

"Now, under pressure due to the international and local campaign against political killings, Esperon is fine-tuning his line to argue that by alleged association with the 'underground' revolutionary movement, the left party-list groups are also enemies of the state and therefore fair game," Sanlakas national chair Wilson Fortaleza said in a statement.

"We defend the right of left party groups to exist even if they are ideologically sympathetic and affiliated with any 'underground' revolutionary organization. This is an internationally recognized right," adding that even communists have rights.

"Are they dumb? Don't they know how to make a distinction between underground groups and 'legal democratic mass movements?'" responded Rep. Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna in a press conference yesterday.

Ocampo pointed out that nowhere in the video did CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison identify Bayan Muna as a front organization for the underground movement.

Ocampo said Sison, who is in self-exile in The Netherlands, could not have mentioned Bayan Muna in the 1987 video. Reason: the party-list group wasn't born until 1999.

Ocampo said it was also clear in Sison's words that groups considered as "legal democratic mass movements" such as Bayan Muna were not engaged in armed struggle.

Ocampo said the Sison video was also part of an orchestrated effort by the military to derail Bayan Muna's chances in the coming election.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño cited the filing of a disqualification case filed against the group supposedly by a member of rival Akbayan. Akbayan categorically denied that it was behind the effort.

Meralco told to pay damages to customer

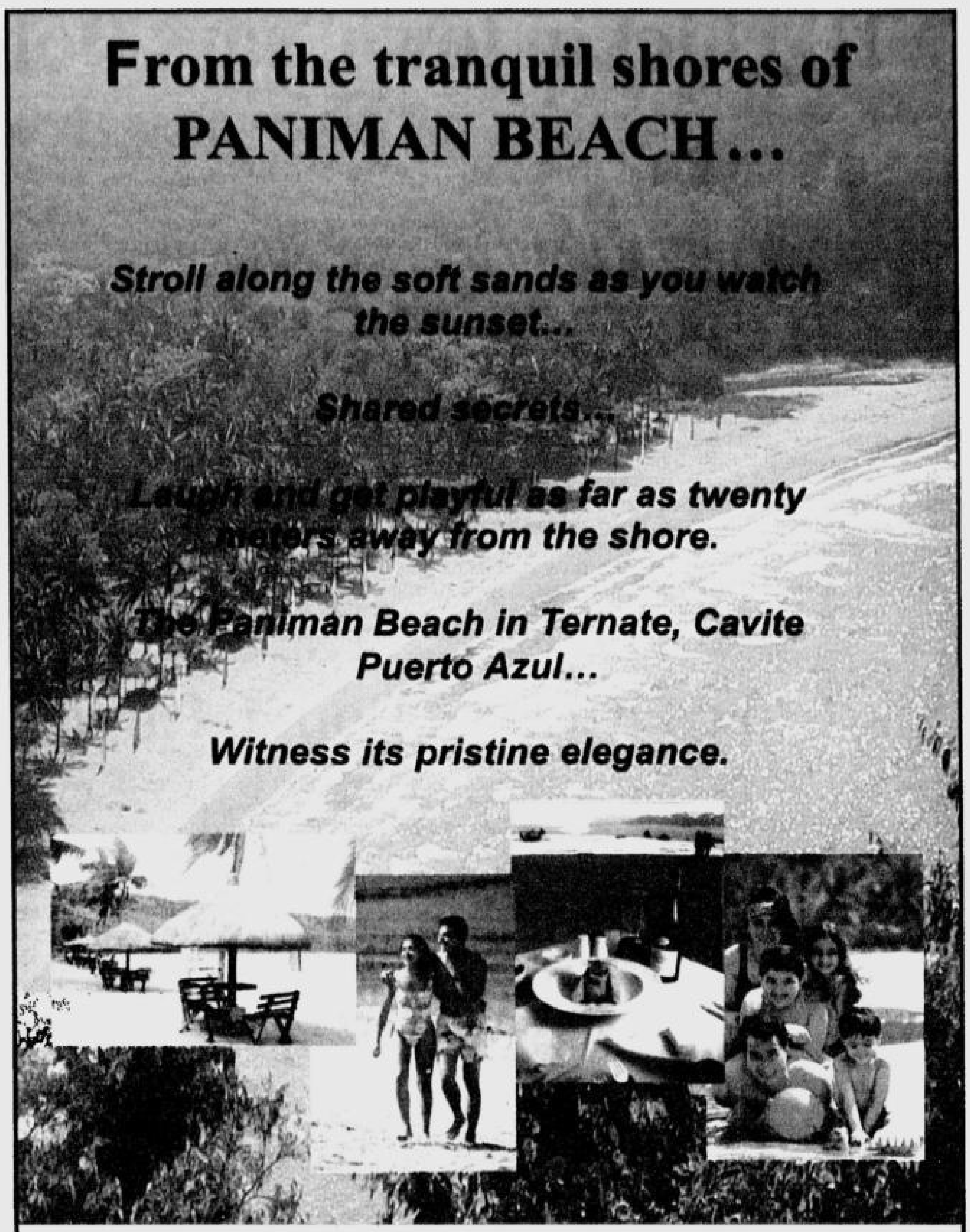
THE SUPREME COURT HAS ORDERED THE Manila Electric Company to pay a customer P150,000 in damages after the court found that the company erred in billing her due to a defective meter.

The high tribunal said it was Meralco's duty to maintain its electric meter, and affirmed the Court of Appeals's ruling stopping the power distributor from collecting the P232,000 it had billed Ma. Victoria Jose from 1993 to 1995, and to desist from cutting off her electricity service.

The high court also affirmed the appellate court's award of moral and exemplary damages to Jose, but reduced the amount to P150,000 from P1 million, saying the latter was excessive.

In awarding P100,000 in moral damages, the court said it was supposed to assuage the moral suffering of, and not to enrich, the complainant. The P50,000 moral damages, on the other hand, was meant to ensure that Meralco would treat its customers better, it added.

Leila B. Salaverria


From the tranquil shores of
PANIMAN BEACH...
Stroll along the soft sands as you watch the sunset...
Shared secrets...
Laugh and get playful as far as twenty meters away from the shore.
The Paniman Beach in Ternate, Cavite
Puerto Azul...
Witness its pristine elegance.

Ternate, Cavite, Philippines
Call in your reservations now for Family and Group Outings
(046) 524 0888 . (046) 524 0898

25 million
phone pals!
DAHIL
SMART
TAYO

WTO chief in town, says Doha round now 'doable'

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINES HAS MUCH TO gain in the success of global trade talks under the World Trade Organization, both in obtaining better access to foreign markets and in shoring up its own industries to foreign competition, said WTO director general Pascal Lamy.

Lamy, who is on a visit to the country, said tariff cuts under the current Doha Round of trade talks would reduce tariff barriers that Philippine exports face in the United States, the European Union, Japan, China and Hong Kong.

At the same time, the Philippines was entitled to special and differential tariffs because it was a developing country, he said.

"This does not mean full exemption from [giving] concessions, but does provide policy space for the government to cover the most sensitive sector and achieve developmental objectives," Lamy said in a speech before the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Philippine Exporters Confederation at the Renaissance World Hotel in Makati.

About half a dozen protesters who were allowed into the forum chanted "Pascal Lamy, get out," before being escorted from the room.

In an interview, the WTO official said a resumption the Doha Round of trade talks has gained so much support from government leaders that a successful conclusion of the negotiations was now "doable".

"The basic template to such an agreement is ready and negotiators only have to agree on 'the precise numbers' in the accord," he said.

Success of the Doha talks was now "a question of months away and not quarters or semesters," Lamy said.

The Doha talks, launched in 2001 in the Qatar capital, aim to remove barriers to global trade but are currently deadlocked, notably over steps to reduce agricultural tariffs and subsidies.

The talks were suspended last July, but trade ministers at the World Economic Forum in Davos last month agreed that negotiations should resume.

Lamy said the talks resumed early this year and has received support from heads of states and of government that was not extended in the previous five years of negotiations.

"I don't know if this is enough, [but I know a conclusion] is doable although we are not there yet," he said.

Lamy said the trade talks must reach a breakthrough by July or they will be stalled once again. He said the breakthrough must come before the expiration of the United States' Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) on July 1.

The TPA gives US President George W. Bush the power to submit trade deals for accelerated approval by lawmakers in a straight "yes" or "no" vote, without amendments.

Lamy said that if the breakthrough could be achieved, a conclusion to the Doha trade talks could be reached in about eight months. But if the breakthrough does not take place, "we are back to where we were when the negotiations broke down," last year, he said.

This could lead to "an erosion of the multilateral trading system," he warned.

A major issue in the negotiations is the developing countries' demand for developed countries to cut or even scrap subsidies to their domestic agricultural sectors.

Another sticky point is the rich countries' demand for greater access to the markets of poorer countries by means of tariffs.

"My estimate is that it would take eight months to conclude the round from the time when a breakthrough is achieved," Lamy said.

He said the "major players," namely the United States, the European Union, India, Brazil and Japan, were "consulting quietly with each other," to ensure such a breakthrough could be achieved.

He defined a WTO breakthrough as reaching a "basic agreement on agricultural subsidies ... agricultural tariffs and industrial tariff reductions."

This means that the developed countries and the developing countries will have agreed on how much to reduce agricultural subsidies as well as tariffs on agricultural and industrial goods.

He said the current round of WTO talks was hard to conclude because their scope was much larger and deeper than in any previous round.

"What is important is to achieve the right balance of how much concessions parties would give," said Lamy.

Lamy said the trade talks were good for the Philippines because the WTO provides a global level playing field for the country's exports as well as a forum to solve trade disputes fairly.

But he admitted that the benefits of free trade were not for everybody since there would be winners and losers.

"Rightly, the losers should be and must be supported and this responsibility rests on the domestic politics of each country," he said. *With a report from AFP*

'Kiko' to go; Gringo, Goma, Paredes eyed to replace him

From page A1

cy meeting yesterday afternoon in Makati to discuss Pangilinan's replacement, according to the Inquirer informants, who asked not to be identified because they had no clearance to talk to media.

The sources, both privy to yesterday's discussions, said among those being considered as Pangilinan's replacement were former Sen. Gregorio Honasan, actor Richard Gomez and lawyer Zosimo Paredes, formerly executive director of the state commission overseeing the Visiting Forces Agreement with the United States.

Honasan and Gomez are running for the Senate as independent candidates, while Paredes is with Ang Kapatiran party.

Kiko's way

One of the sources said Pangilinan's replacement in the GO ticket might be announced during today's Plaza Miranda rally starting at 5 p.m.

"Just watch for it tomorrow. It will be announced there," said one of the sources.

"When I was invited as a guest candidate, I was grateful for the kind gesture," Pangilinan said in his statement. "But being a guest candidate, it would not be right to force me to attend, much more for them to punish me for not showing up on Saturday."

"I'm thankful for the trust of the Genuine Opposition and for their invitation, but it's only proper that only official candidates attend on Saturday," he said.

Pangilinan is scheduled to campaign in Tarlac around the time of the proclamation rally.

Not surprised

The opposition's proclamation rally has already been postponed at least once while the venue has been changed twice—from Makati it was moved to San Juan, and then finally to Manila.

Pangilinan is with the Liberal Party faction headed by Sen. Franklin Drilon, among the groups which called for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2005.

Asked if dropping Pangilinan from the slate was an option for GO following the senator's decision to snub the proclamation rally, Escudero said: "I'm not part of the executive committee but I won't be surprised if they decide to do so."

Escudero said it was unfortunate that Pangilinan decided to skip today's rally.

"I hope he will realize that if his non-attendance is a potential loss for us, it will also be a loss for him," Escudero said.

Pangilinan not on agenda

In a subsequent talk with the Inquirer last night, Escudero said his information was that Pangilinan was not discussed at the meeting of GO leaders.

This was the same information relayed by opposition reelectionist Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who said Pangilinan's being left off the slate was not on the agenda of the GO emergency meeting.

"The general sentiment is to let him be," Lacson said.

Those in the meeting included Lacson, Binay, Escudero, former Ambassador Ernesto Maceda, former Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio Morales, and GOs senatorial bets'Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano and Sonia Roco.

"If it were on the agenda, (Pangilinan's fate) would have been discussed right away," Lacson said.

Status quo now

Opposition campaign manager JV Ejercito, mayor of San Juan City, said last night: "As of now, it's status quo. He will still be an official candidate of the Genuine Opposition."

GO spokesperson Adel Tamano issued a similar statement.

"Up to this point in time, he's still our official candidate, which means that we'll campaign for him. Which means that (today), we'll say, 'please vote for Kiko.'"

"He has decided not to come to the proclamation rally, and we respect that," Tamano told reporters while the opposition leaders were holding their closed door meeting.

"Until our elders make their decision, we'll campaign 100 percent for Kiko. We stick with the situation where Kiko really is our candidate... That's a party decision to make," he said.

Tamano also said Pangilinan was not on the agenda of the meeting.

"Whether you believe or not, we're not talking about Kiko. We're talking about (today's) proclamation rally, about the program, sequence of speeches, our program of governance and platform," Tamano said.

Platform

"(Today) is really very important for us. There were complaints that we don't have a platform, so (today) you'll hear it straight from us," he added.

Asked why Pangilinan was not discussed, Tamano only said: "Frankly, I don't know why we're not talking about Kiko."

Former Sen. Loren Legarda, another opposition candidate, said she respected Pangilinan's decision not to attend today's rally.

"It's his decision how to proceed... As far as we are concerned, we will just keep on campaigning," Legarda said.

Lacson said it would be up to voters how to look at Pangilinan's decision to be neither opposition nor administration.

"We have adopted Kiko as a GO candidate, which he already said he welcomes. As a candidate myself, I'd rather keep it that way," Lacson said.

Up to voters

"It is not for me or anybody from the coalition to impose on him what activity to join or not. It is up to the voters supporting the opposition to give or deny him their votes come Judgment Day on May 14," he added.

Senatorial candidate Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III is joining opposition sorties.

Pangilinan's fellow independent candidate, Senate President Manuel Villar, who was also taken in by the opposition as a guest candidate, has said he will attend the proclamation rally.

Loyalists of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. have opposed Pangilinan's inclusion in the opposition ticket for his role in upholding Ms Arroyo's election victory over FPJ in 2004.

Or, he appeared to do so during the canvassing of the presidential votes in Congress. To all objections raised by Poe allies in Congress, he merely said, "noted." *With a report from DJ Yap*

Erap defends son JV: No plans to replace him with Jinggoy

From page A1

to replace him with his half-brother, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, as opposition campaign manager for the May senatorial elections.

JV himself denied the reports that he would be replaced by Jinggoy but indicated he was looking for someone to take over his job fulltime once the local election campaign got underway.

But Jinggoy on Thursday confirmed to the Inquirer that he was offered the position of opposition campaign manager and that he would make a decision "in the next few days."

JV is running for reelection in San Juan. He's also reportedly planning to get married.

The half-brothers, Jinggoy and JV, are known to be not on good terms. The senator is Estrada's son with Sen. Loi Estrada, while the mayor is the ousted President's son with Guia Gomez.

"JV will be the campaign manager all throughout. Jinggoy will only pinch hit," Estrada told the Inquirer.

Estrada said Jinggoy would be on hand if JV had to be physically in San Juan and the GO campaign team needed to be elsewhere.

"JV is doing a good job as campaign manager... Many candidates called me to ask why he will be replaced," Estrada said. "I told them that he won't be."

Estrada lamented that the administration was sowing intrigue between his two sons to further the chances of its Team Unity in the coming elections.

"Do they have to sow intrigue between my two sons?" Estrada said.

Campaign problems

The report that GO might be looking for a new campaign manager.came after the opposition campaign ran into initial difficulties, reportedly involving shortage of funds, that had resulted in the cancellation of some sorties and the candidates going their separate ways in hunting for votes.

"That is not true at all," JV told the Inquirer, referring to reports that his half-brother would be replacing him.

But JV conceded his role in the national campaign would be lessened once the local campaign began.

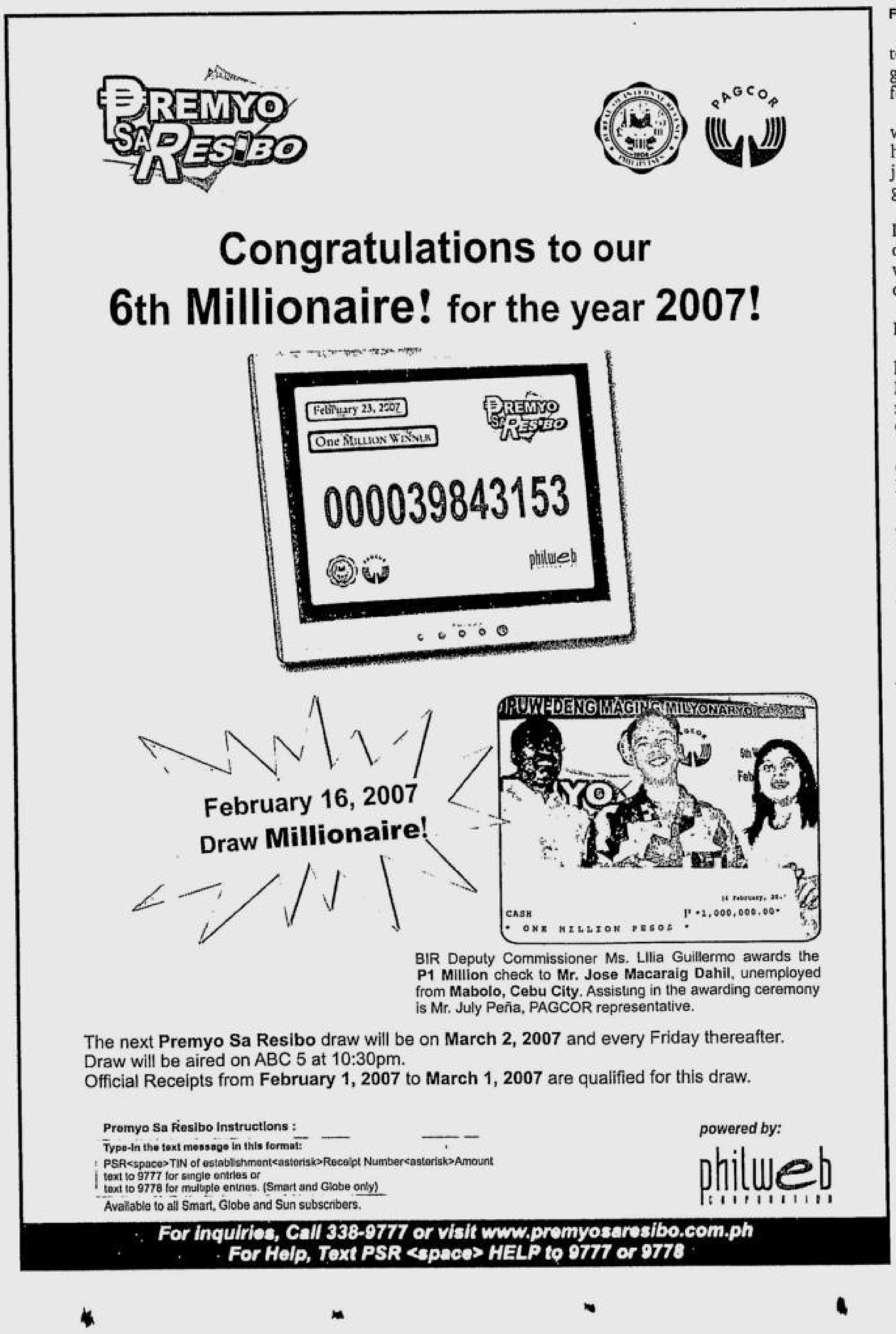
He said that from the start, his role as GO campaign manager was only temporary because he would be busy working for his own local campaign.

Drilon or Osmeña

But he quickly said he would still work for the national campaign.

"From the very start, I'll be here temporarily," he said. "I have a local election to take care of. I will recommend someone with the credibility and the integrity, like Drilon or Osmena."

He was referring to Senators Franklin Drilon and Sergio Osmeña III.



Premyo Sa Resibo

Congratulations to our
6th Millionaire! for the year 2007!

February 23, 2007
One Million Winner
000039843153

February 16, 2007
Draw Millionaire!

PUWEDENG MAGING MILYONARYO
CASH
ONE MILLION PESOS
P 1,000,000.00

BIR Deputy Commissioner Ms. Lilia Guillermo awards the **P1 Million** check to **Mr. Jose Macaraig Dahil**, unemployed from **Mabolo, Cebu City**. Assisting in the awarding ceremony is Mr. July Peña, PAGCOR representative.

The next **Premyo Sa Resibo** draw will be on **March 2, 2007** and every Friday thereafter.
Draw will be aired on ABC 5 at 10:30pm.
Official Receipts from **February 1, 2007** to **March 1, 2007** are qualified for this draw.

Premyo Sa Resibo Instructions :
Type-in the text message in this format:
PSR<space>TIN of establishment<asterisk>Receipt Number<asterisk>Amount
text to 9777 for single entries or
text to 9778 for multiple entries. (Smart and Globe only)
Available to all Smart, Globe and Sun subscribers.

powered by:
philweb corporation

For Inquiries, Call 338-9777 or visit www.premyosaresibo.com.ph
For Help, Text PSR <space> HELP to 9777 or 9778

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, the names of 23 examinees who passed the recent medical board exams—**Alihan, Maria Emerald Sison; Arciga, Rene Lynn Alegre; Banzon, Noel Alfonso III Villaluna; Bueno, Michael Pol Udarbe; Castillo, Jeanette Katigbak; Corpuz, Cherry Ann Santos; De La Cruz, Jason Danganan; Dones, Dan Michael Collong; Ezpeleta, Alli Roman Ian Pueyo; Gambito, Ephraim De Vera; Habito, Vergel Lemuel Buenaventura; Juele, Mary Christine Solatre; Limcaoco, Mary Rose Celerina Bella; Magsino, Mark Anthony Reus; Mateo, Kristine Joy De Leon; Narag, Maria Elizabelle Quisano; Pacheco, Renielyn Soriano; Peña, Jonathan Rillera; Ramos, Maria Lowelyn Cabig; Rosario, Grace Ramos; Selodio, Evan Ferrancullo; Tapangco, Michael Paolo Mendoza;** and **Valmores, Ma Margarita De Grano**—were omitted inadvertently from the list published on Page A8. A system error caused the omission. Our apologies and congratulations.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, a front-page article—"Malacañang releases 20-year-old Joma video"—mistakenly implied that party-list Bayan Muna was mentioned in a 1987 video by Jose Ma. Sison. The group mentioned in the video, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan or Bayan, is a political alliance and umbrella group, and is a different organization altogether, according to Renato Reyes Jr., Bayan spokesperson. He added that Bayan Muna had not yet been formed at the time the video was shot.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

Globe may win unlimited text case by default

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS Commission (NTC) may soon drop TXTPower's complaint against Globe's new unlimited texting promo since the consumer group is not inclined to pursue formal hearings.

NTC-brokers conciliation talks collapsed Friday afternoon when TXTPower refused to accept Globe's final offer of P90 for six days unlimited texting as an additional choice in its current promo.

"The offer translates to about P15 a day, which is only slightly lower than their initial offer of P100 for six days, or P16.67 a day. P15 a day is still much higher than our demand of P10 a day, which Globe can offer as P100 for five days,". TXTPower spokesperson Anthony Ian Cruz said.

NTC Deputy Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento to said it received a motion to dismiss from Globe after the talks collapsed and will give TXTPower 10 days to reply.

Collapsed talks

"If TXTPower does not reply, only then will we resolve the motion," Sarmiento said.

However, Cruz said TXTPower was not inclined to attend any more meetings or hearings on the case. He said his group asked the NTC to decide on the case Friday but the regulator instead informed them of the motion from Globe. He accused the NTC of dismissing TXTPower's case based on Globe's motion to dismiss the complaint.

"The talks having collapsed, we will not explain our complaint anymore, our complaint stands as it is," Cruz said.

NTC was supposed to decide on the issue on Feb. 12 after Globe refused to follow its cease and desist order on a new unlimited texting promo that was the subject of a complaint by TXTPower.

TXTPower called it a veiled price increase and contrary to the telco's claim of "permanent rates" in a previous unlimited texting promo.

Globe filed an appeal for reconsideration and the NTC sought to broker a compromise agreement instead of starting hearings right away.

The two sides have since aired their respective offers and counteroffers in three other conciliation meetings.

KAPATIRAN PROCLAMATION RALLY

No stars, no fiery speeches, no big crowds

By Christian V. Esguerra

TIRED OF FIERY POLITICAL SPEECHes or the dumbing presence of movie stars?

A relatively obscure political party advocating God-centered politics offers a respite to all that at its proclamation rally at Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan, at 9 a.m. today.

Ang Kapatiran will officially present its lean senatorial lineup on the same day that the Genuine Opposition parades its complete Senate slate composed of veteran politicians and young turks at its proclamation rally at the Plaza Miranda in Manila.

With only three candidates and very little experience in the Philippine elections, Kapatiran doesn't intend to outdo either the administration's Team Unity or GO when it comes to political machinery, clout and antics, according to Kapatiran founder Nandy Pacheco.

"We're helping build a nation of character here," he told the INQUIRER yesterday. "To achieve this, we have to promote a politics of virtue, duty and good citizenship."

Pacheco, a leading advocate of a gunless society, admitted that the idea might not sell well to an electorate still generally blinded by popularity and money in choosing their candidates.

Only 300

Thus, organizers are expecting only around 300 participants to attend today's proclamation of the party's senatorial bets which include Dr. Martin Bautista and lawyers Jesus Zosimo Paredes and Adrian Sison.

Bautista, 44, is a gastroenterologist who had spent the last 17 years working in the United States. Last year, he went home for good with his wife and four daughters and was later convinced to run under the Kapatiran ticket.

Paredes, 58, is formerly executive director of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement with the US. He lost his job last year after questioning the furtive transfer to the US Embassy of Marine soldier Daniel Smith, a convicted rapist.

Sison, 50, is a seasoned lawyer specializing in taxation and family law.

The fourth candidate would have been Mario Ongkiko, considered as one of the top lawyers in the country. But acting on his doctor's advice, the 75-year-old Ongkiko withdrew his candidacy and would instead focus on his job as Kapatiran president.

Pacheco said attendance in today's proclamation at Club Filipino would be indicative of the public's reception of the kind of politics and governance the three candidates and the party were trying to pursue.

"People basically have to choose between maintaining the status quo or changing it," he said.

He described the Kapatiran candidates as members of the "silent majority who believe in non-violence."

"They were all at the first Edsa revolution and they are bitterly disappointed with what has happened afterward," he said.

As of yesterday, Pacheco said the party had received confirmation on the participation of businessmen, academicians, students and housewives in the San Juan event.

"People are really longing for change in the political landscape," he said.

To help bankroll the Kapatiran campaign, organizers will launch the "Alay ng Pamilya sa Paglilinis ng Pulitika," a donation program. The idea is to make the people run the campaign themselves.

Experience
High Class Conference
Live Out Package Php 600.00 net/pax
Live In Package from 1,650.00 net/pax
FREE WIFI • BUSINESS CTR • GYM • SPA
No.1 J. Felipe St. cor. Gibraltar Rd., Baguio City
(near Good Shepherd, St. Joseph Church, & Mines View Park)
Tel. No. (Baguio): (074) 619-0367
www.hotelelizabeth.com.ph
Hotel Elizabeth
Fersal • Baguio

Fersal Place Hotel
CONFERENCE PACKAGES
from P 495.00 net/pax/day (LIVE-OUT PACKAGE)
1,388.00 net/pax/day (LIVE-IN PACKAGE)
131 Malakas St., Diliman, Quezon City • Tel. No. (632) 426-7308 • reservations@fersalplace.com.ph

FERSAL INN
Newly renovated rooms reservations@fersalinn.com.ph
From P 550.00 to 900.00 net/pax (Based on Twin Sharing) (FREE BREAKFAST*)
• P. Tuazon St., Cubao, Quezon City .... Tel.: (+632) 912-8000
• Annapolis St., Cubao, Quezon City .... Tel.: (+632) 912-5852
• Neptune St., Makati City .... Tel.: (+632) 897-9123
• Kalayaan Avenue, Quezon City .... Tel.: (+632) 924-2689
• Andalucia St., Sta. Cruz, Manila .... Tel.: (+632) 742-7292
(*Except Annapolis Branch)
Inn Café "Dining with pleasure at affordable prices"
Manila Reservations Office: (632) 912-2691 • Trunk Line: (632) 911-2161 local 148 • Fax: (632) 912-2693

25 million
text mates.
DAHIL SMART TAYO

Q & A ON PCGG

Salonga: They took advantage of their position

Excerpts of an interview conducted by Inquirer reporter Norman Bordadora with former Senate President Jovito Salonga who served for about eight months as chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government following its creation on Feb. 28, 1986.

Question: Has the PCGG exceeded its mandate?

Answer: During my time, no commissioner was appointed to a sequestered firm to take advantage of the position. Neither during the time of Ramon Diaz. But I observed that in subsequent administrations ... especially the last with the likes of Camilo Sabio and Ricky Abcede, these people took advantage of their position and became directors of sequestered firms, even chairmen, in violation of the law that I authored, the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Government Officials and Employees. This is punishable by imprisonment because of the conflict of interest.

During my time, we allowed reputable persons to sit in the sequestered firms but always making an account on how much they can get.

Q: Do you believe PCGG nominees should still be in the boards of sequestered firms?

A: Yes, but they should be reputable persons of moral integrity and competence. But not the PCGG commissioners because of conflict of interest. You are supposed to supervise the sequestered firms when you become a director especially in the board of major firms like San Miguel. Your compensation and perks render you vulnerable. You get more than what you get as commissioner. More perks mean they are being bribed. Loyalty becomes questionable. This is the reason behind the Code of Conduct. They should be prosecuted, those who are doing this now. And in the words of a retired Supreme Court Justice, they should go to jail.

(Here, Salonga was reading from his book, "Presidential Plunder," and was pointing out a second function of commission.)

There was another task which unnecessarily occupied the time and attention of the PCGG—the administration and management, in whole or in part, of companies affected by its sequestration orders. PCGG's primary function of recovering the loot through litigation was being overshadowed and adulterated by this secondary function which in many cases, tarnished the reputation and integrity of the whole commission.

It was my belief even during my time when this secondary function was becoming a problem that another agency with the proper managerial expertise and personnel should have been created by the Office of the President for this purpose. But nothing of that sort was done. Fiscal agents and persons appointed as directors for sequestered firms, including some PCGG commissioners after my resignation as chairman found this secondary function more to their liking. And whoever was president was apparently tempted to take advantage of this defect for their own purposes.

Many of President Estrada's appointees as directors of corporations affected by sequestration orders are better known for their kinship or for other skills. Some are obviously tainted by what the constitution and the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officers and Employees RA 6713 describe as "conflict of interest."

Q: You said in your book that another body should have been created to handle the management of the sequestered firms. Do you think this will address today's problem of the PCGG milking the firms dry?

A: Probably. But the problem is this. What if the people there are corrupt? Take the Department of Justice for instance. You won't have a problem if you have a secretary of justice like Pedro Tuazon. But what about now? You have Raul Gonzales who is Gloria's hatchet man. And he's also overstaying. As Confucious said: There should be leadership by example. You don't solve the problem by creating another agency.

Q: The PCGG has lost some important cases as well. What are your thoughts on this.

A: No matter how good your PCGG commissioners are, the cases are still decided by the courts. Most were decided by judges appointed by Marcos. You have a problem of utang na loob and pakikisama (debt of gratitude and camaraderie). Ultimately, every agency of government must be led by persons of integrity and competence.

JOAN BONDOC

THAT TOWERING FEELING: The People Power monument along Edsa gets a touch of patriotism with a worker putting flags in the hands of the various statues sculpted by Ed Castrillo. Tomorrow marks the 21st anniversary of the peaceful revolt by the people on Edsa.

No more assets to protect in RPN 9, IBC 13

From page A1

view the PCGG's supervising agent, Conrado "Dodie" Limcaoco, who is in charge of Broadcast City housing the two networks, for this article. His staff says he had first agreed to see an INQUIRER reporter, but later made himself scarce.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. says the PCGG's presence in the media networks, at the very least, must now end because it has neither been able to protect their assets nor identify their owners as it is mandated to do.

"It seems inexcusable for PCGG to sit in the board of these sequestered firms at this time," says Pimentel.

Control of 40 companies

In her first official act following the overthrow of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos during the Edsa People Power revolution Feb. 22-25, 1986, President Corazon Aquino issued Executive Order No. 1. It created the PCGG and directed it to provisionally take over in the public interest or to prevent their "disposal or dissipation" assets believed to have been illegally acquired by Marcos and his associates until they could be disposed of in an appropriate manner.

RPN 9 and IBC 13 were among 40 major companies placed under PCGG control. More than 200 firms were sequestered with PCGG having little to do with their operation.

PCGG and the anomalous activities of its agents were put on the spotlight last year when Sen. Richard Gordon's committee on government corporations called a hearing on Philcomsat, one of the country's largest telecommunications companies.

The inquiry uncovered fabulous sums amounting to several millions in salaries, allowances and other perks of PCGG-appointed officials of Philcomsat documented in financial reports to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

It also provided the committee materials to craft legislation that could possibly lead to the PCGG's abolition and the transfer of sequestered firms to the Asset Privatization Trust, says Gordon.

Under the PCGG, the seized TV networks unraveled.

Advertisers went away

Advertisers—the lifeblood of the networks—stayed away after the fall of the Marcos regime and the PCGG-appointed managers failed to woo them back for a host of reasons, including the lack of creativeness to attract audiences and the wherewithal to compete in the marketplace with decent programs.

"There was a time when management changed hands three times in two years," says one RPN source. "Its impact on operations, company directions and employee morale was serious," he says.

"PCGG has failed in many respects to protect RPN assets for various reasons: the regular change in management, incompetent CEOs and presidents, all of them Malacañang appointees," he says.

In 2004, says this source, under the watch of Cerge Remonde as chair, RPN 9 received infusion from Malacañang to the tune of P75 million to address serious financial problems. The money instead was used to pay off obligations for sick leaves, medical reimbursements, bonuses.

Solar Sports, which brings to Filipino homes NBA games and has prime time use of the channel, had offered a one-time management fee to RPN in exchange for control of the entire operation in a bid to stop the financial bleeding and get the network back on track.

Fargas, former vice president for news, public affairs and sports and was head of the supervisors' union, opposed the deal. He says it would have diluted benefits of employees, people who have devoted decades of service to the company.

Dionisio Laro, president of the IBC Employees Union, says PCGG people running the network were posted there as payback for favors—*utang na loob*—by Malacañang. They were clueless on broadcast operations, he says.

"We only fool ourselves when we talk to each other," says Laro. "We hope these people would help us push for privatization since we could not do anything about their continued presence in the board."

In a recent open letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, employees called for the privatization of RPN 9 and IBC 13.

"Concerned government agencies like the PCGG and the Privatization Management Office spent huge amounts of money in their seeming effort to effect the privatization but failed just the same to (our) disappointment," the letter says.

Who's accountable

They say it was the only way to a "secured financial package for our separation and retirement benefits."

The sequestered networks should have closed a long time ago, insiders say. They now have obsolete equipment with no practical resale value. The only asset the networks have, these people say, is their franchise to operate. Anyone can get this if connection is right.

There is, in fact, no more assets for PCGG to protect because PCGG has dissipated them in contravention of its mandate.

The question is: Who should be held accountable for the dissipation? ***With reports from Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research***

Chavit an 'investor' in Metrowalk, PCGG admits

From page A1

5,000-square-meter portion of what was popularly known as the "Payanig sa Pasig" property.

As a PCGG commissioner, Abcede is directly responsible for overseeing and managing the assets seized by the agency from the Marcos family and their associates since the 1986 Edsa Revolution.

He said that he has even dealt with Singson—an influential ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo—to discuss the future of Metrowalk and its lease contract with the PCGG.

"We've met to clear the issues [regarding the lease]," Abcede said.

Name does not appear

Strangely, however, Singson's name does not appear on the latest information sheet filed by Pasig Printing with corporate regulators.

The document lists only Girardo Paolo G. Ignacio, Ma. Katrina M. Arellano, Rodival E. Reyes, Hans M. Palma, Candido R. Flor, Doroteo M. Pangilinan, Hernando F. Balmores, and Raymund P. Palad as directors and stockholders.

The firm has a paid-up capital of only P750,000.

In its lease contract with the PCGG signed in May 2003, Pasig Printing was represented by Raul Enrique B. Concepcion who is a vice president of the firm.

The INQUIRER tried, but failed, to reach Singson for comment on the issue. Phone calls and text messages sent to his mobile phone went unanswered.

The bigger picture

Metrowalk is only a small portion of the 18.4-hectare Payanig sa Pasig property, whose ownership has remained in legal limbo since it was surrendered by Marcos associate Jose Y. Campos to the Aquino administration in exchange for immunity from suit.

Property developer Ortigas & Co. has since come forward to claim the property, saying the Ortigas family was forced by then President Marcos to sell it under the barrel of a gun.

Ortigas & Co. has been trying to seal a compromise deal with the PCGG where it will surrender 65 percent of the property to the state and retain only 35 percent.

The deal has failed to prosper, however, due to disagreements over just exactly how much the property is worth.

Abcede, who heads the PCGG's asset management division, has said that the property—which sits adjacent to the Ortigas central business district—should be worth as much as P18 billion once it is fully developed.

Ortigas & Co., on the other hand, point out that the property is nothing more than raw land, and should be valued at no more than P3 billion.

Ortigas' view is supported by property consultant Cuervo Appraisers Inc. while Abcede said his valuation is supported by another study commissioned by the agency.

As far as Pasig Printing is concerned, however, it sealed a bargain deal when they entered into an agreement with the PCGG in 2003 for the lease of the Metrowalk property.

Low rent, high income

According to the lease documents, Pasig Printing would pay PCGG a rental fee of P750,000 a month. This amount would rise by 5 percent on the second and third years, and by 10 percent on the fourth year, after which it would expire.

Financial records of Pasig Printing were unavailable but it is reasonable to assume that Metrowalk makes substantially more in terms of rentals and royalties from sub-lessees, given the volume of business and foot traffic that the shopping center attracts.

The lease is up for renewal or renegotiation next year.

Abcede denies that Singson and Pasig Printing are being given preferential treatment on the lease contract by virtue of the Ilocos governor's links to the Palace.

"It is not true," Abcede said. "Metrowalk's rent will be raised to market value."

Abcede concedes, however, that the government has been on the short end of several lease contracts on the Payanig property entered into by past PCGG heads—a situation he says he is trying to correct.

Lots of money in legal limbo

"That's why I've been trying to renegotiate these contracts as they come up for renewal," he said.

The PCGG official said that he managed to raise the rent of West Point Industrial Co.—the owner of Ortigas Home Depot along the Ortigas Avenue side of the property—from a mere P75 per square meter to P120 per square meter. He is also negotiating for higher rent from Gold Park, another lessee on the property.

At present, a middle ground has yet to emerge between the two opposing positions of the Ortigas family and the PCGG.

The status quo bodes well for Metrowalk and the other tenants of the Payanig property, and bodes ill for the government which will likely continue to receive below-market rental fees.

"The thing is, this impasse is keeping the property in legal limbo, and some people are making a lot of money out of it," according to an official familiar with the negotiations between Ortigas and PCGG. "The government is being deprived of rental income while Ortigas is being denied the use of its property."

Neda chief: Some gov't regulatory firms 'captured' by big business

From page A1

goods and passengers and for the high production costs in the country.

The Neda chief said the cost of handling cargo in Philippine ports was very high, resulting in higher prices being paid by consumers.

This is because high transport costs—much of it port-related—of agriculture, fishery and manufactured goods are eventually passed on to end-users, he said.

NERI: Change attitude

The Philippine Ports Authority, the government agency responsible for developing terminals, facilities and services in the country's ports, needed to be reformed, he said.

Monopolistic

The job of loading and unloading merchandise in the country's piers and wharves is done by a few private arrastre companies. Neri said a revamp of the PPA would correct this monopolistic scheme.

As many critics have pointed out, the PPA's regulatory function has to be separated from its function as the owner of the country's ports.

Another case is air travel which despite the regulatory presence of the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB), has remained prohibitive for most Filipinos, said Neri.

The CAB is the agency that regulates, promotes and develops the economic aspects of civil aviation. It is responsible for approving air services agreements with foreign carriers.

Though the country has adopted a partial "open skies" policy—opening up certain airports like Clark to more foreign airlines—this has not done anything to bring down the cost of air travel, said Neri.

Liberalize airlines

"It's not effective. We would be better off liberalizing [the entire airline industry]... that way you bring in more tourists," he said.

Liberalizing the airline industry would mean CAB would have to be freer about parceling out air rights, thus allowing more airlines to operate here. Such a move would considerably bring down the cost of air travel.

Neri called on the state regulatory agencies to "change their outlook and attitudes."

He said he was making this criticism of the regulatory agencies so "that people will be aware that there is such a thing as 'regulatory captives.'"

This will also make these agencies know that they are being watched, he said. ***Dennis Jay C. Santos, Inquirer Mindanao***

It's no lobby; it's advocacy, drug firms insist

By Nikko Dizon

IT IS NOT A LOBBY; IT IS AN "ADvocacy."

This was how an official of the Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) described the group's interest in House Bill No. 6035 which seeks to lower the prices of medicines in the country.

"It is not correct to say that PHAP is lobbying against the bill. It is engaged in an assertive advocacy because of the issues involved. Public health is primary here, not the loss of profit," lawyer Noel Laman, PHAP spokesperson, said in a press conference.

Laman said that PHAP, an organization of major international drug companies operating in the Philippines, was "never opposed" to providing Filipinos greater access to cheap medicines.

"But the PHAP insists that these cheap medicines must be of good quality, [they] must be effective and most of all, safe," he said.

He added that Filipinos should be made aware that the prevalence of bogus drugs in Southeast Asia "has reached alarming" figures.

Pfizer, meanwhile, denied media reports that they attempted to block the passage of House Bill No. 6035.

In a statement e-mailed to the INQUIRER, Pfizer said that during the special congressional session on Feb. 20, which included deliberations to amend the intellectual property code, the pharmaceutical company had just one representative present among various nongovernment organizations, government officials, public-interest groups and members of the PHAP.

"As a leading pharmaceutical company, providing access to innovative medicines to thousands of patients in the Philippines, Pfizer believes it has a responsibility to participate actively in critical deliberations pertaining to healthcare. Any suggestion that the company acted in an untoward manner is simply untrue and contrary to Pfizer values," Pfizer said.

The PHAP also stood by its lawyers, who were thrown out of the Session Hall last Wednesday after they slipped a note to Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., asking him to question the quorum while House Bill No. 6305 was being discussed on the floor.

Lawmakers threatened to take action against the PHAP lawyers.

"The lawyers were simply being protecting the right of PHAP," Laman said, adding that there was apparently no quorum on the second day of the Congress' special session which had "alarmed" the PHAP lawyers.

"Why would only a handful of congressmen discuss and pass a measure like that?" he noted.

The lawyers wrote that they "desperately needed" help to question the quorum.

"In fact, their concerns were valid. The bill was passed [on second reading]. How are laws passed with [only] 15-20 congressmen [deliberating on the floor]?" Laman said.

He added that PHAP was particularly concerned about some amendments inserted in the bill, such as the introduction of a price regulatory board, which would in effect, control the maximum prices of goods.

"PHAP believes that the House bill, in its present form, without any further amendments, without insertion of regulatory safeguard, will open the floodgates for the importation of any and all kinds of medicines," Laman said.

Erap lawyers cite 'Hello Garci' in plea

By Jocelyn R. Uy

SOUNDS THIN, BUT WHAT OTHER arguments can they raise?

Lawyers yesterday told the Sandiganbayan that letting their client, detained former President Joseph Estrada, help the opposition in its campaign might throw more light on the "Hello Garci" controversy which they claimed remained a threat to a clean elections.

"It is so very important then that [Estrada] be allowed to be accessed by the people, who have the right to know, directly and indirectly, to help resolve the issue," lawyer Rene Saguisag said, in asking the antigraft court to let Estrada stay in his San Juan home or allow the media and his use of mobile phones in his Tanay, Rizal, rest house in the duration of the campaign.

Saguisag said that though President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo apologized for the impropriety of calling Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano regarding results of vote counting in Mindanao in 2004, the issue remained unresolved.

"If the Genuine Opposition gets clobbered credibly with [Estrada] helping lead the campaign, the tension should subside, as the opposition would have to nurse and lick its wounds," Saguisag said.

Desktop AURORA CALCULATOR

DUAL POWERED MULTIFUNCTION CALCULATOR WITH TAX CALCULATION, BACKSPACE FUNCTION 12 DIGITS LARGE ANGLED DISPLAY DIRECT NUMBER INPUT

DT-820 PHP 380.00

DT-661 PHP 388.00

Distibuted by: ASTECH PENGSON DISTRIBUTORS INC

Manila Lines: 634-8351 to 59
Cebu Lines: (032) 344-1185
Davao Lines: (082) 221-0585
www.astech-pengson.com
123456 7890 12
123456 7890 12

VICTORIA STATION

...too good to be true!

- 3-BR Condo Units starting at P1.5M
- Absolutely No Outright Downpayment
- Only P10,000 to Reserve
- Available through In-House or Pag-IBIG Financing (Non-members also welcome)
- As low as P12,500 Initial Monthly Amortization
- Earn up to P1M in 2 years

MODEL UNITS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING AT OUR SHOWROOM 7am-10pm

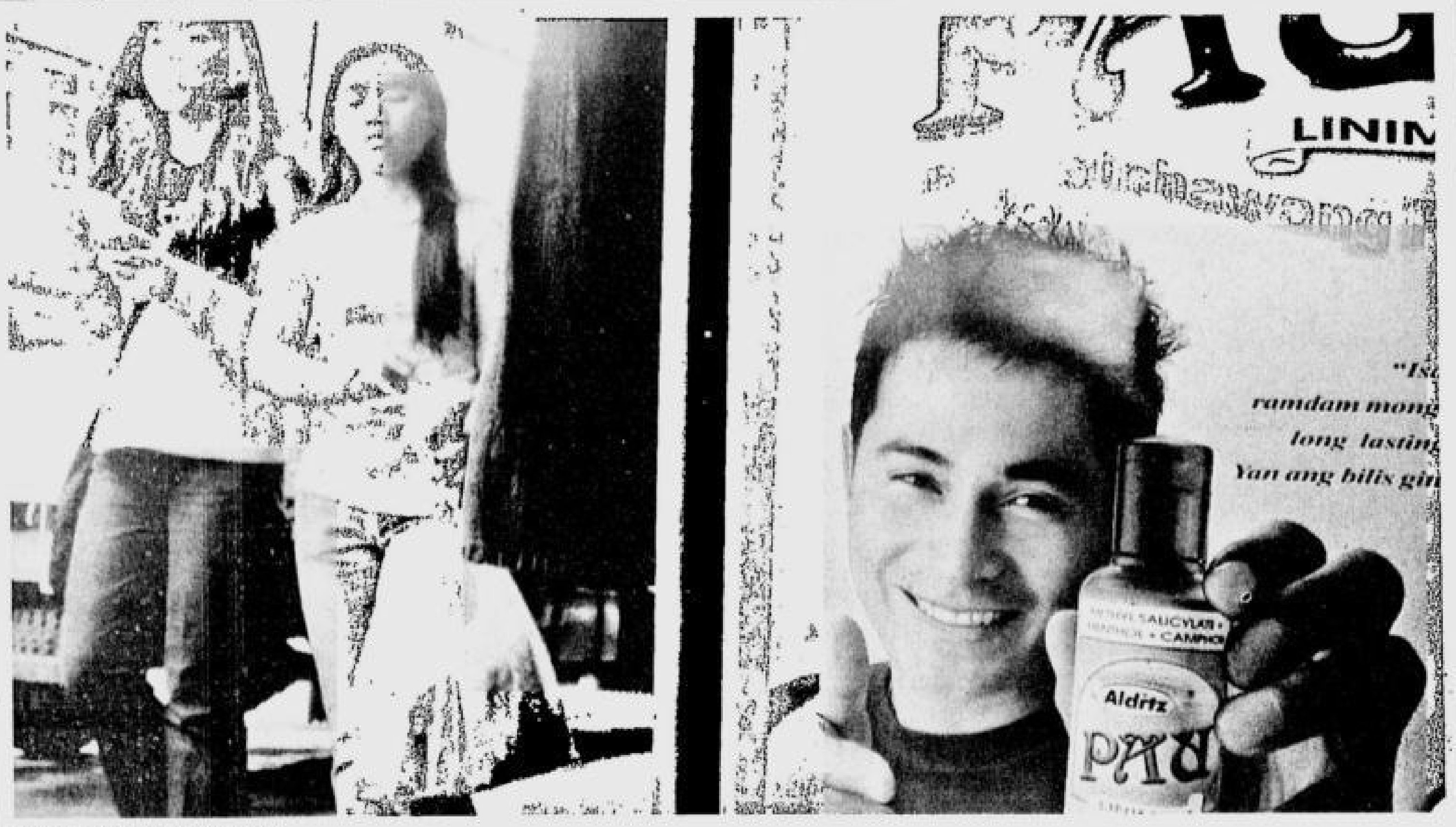
CALL 926.9520 497.2776 415.9575

Direct Access to GMA-MRT Station

For Announcement Purposes Only

25 milyon na nagkakaisa.

DAHIL SMART TAYO



HE'S EVERYWHERE
The ubiquitous image of senatorial candidate Cesar Montano jumps out of this advertising poster but is largely ignored by these two pedestrians in Baguio City. The Comelec has warned that the advertising posters violate election laws and could result in the disqualification of the Team Unity candidate. On Edsa earlier this week, Montano personally tore down billboards bearing his image. IAN DAUGOY / INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Cardinal backs Baja extension at UN

By Cynthia D. Balana

MANILA ARCHBISHOP GAUDENCIO CARDInal Rosales has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to retain Ambassador Lauro Baja as the country's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York.

Rosales sent a letter to Ms Arroyo dated Feb. 12, a copy of which was released to diplomatic reporters.

He made the endorsement after he received a letter from Baja who had sought the Cardinal's intercession.

Baja has been elected vice president of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), a position he will have to relinquish if removed from the UN.

As ECOSOC vice president, Baja has access to programs and funds of the bodies and agencies under the council in areas of disaster relief and assistance, anti-poverty arrangements, development programs and capacity building for the country's economic and social needs.

Rosales asked the President to give Baja a chance to complete his term in ECOSOC, one of the UN's six principal organs.

Baja is the first Filipino diplomat since the late Carlos P. Romulo in the 1950s and the late Salvador P. Lopez in the 1960s to be so honored.

Baja, who is still in New York, has been recalled to the Department of Foreign Affairs after the President appointed his replacement, former Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. as the Philippine representative to the UN.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said Davide was scheduled to leave for the UN yesterday and assume his new post today.

The propriety and legality of Davide's appointment is now the subject of a petition pending before the Supreme Court.

"All things considered, Ambassador Baja's request and this present endorsement are, in no way, made to belittle the credentials of the newly appointed Ambassador and Permanent Representative whom I also know and respect," said Rosales in his letter to the President.

Tessie bats for state-of-the-art schools

SENATORIAL CANDIDATE TESSIE Aquino-Oreta has urged the government to invest in the state-of-the-art school facilities for big national high schools in every region.

"I envision to establish one state-of-the-art school in every region with modern facilities at par with those of the private schools. We need to give equal opportunity to all," Aquino-Oreta said in a press statement.

Aquino-Oreta said that a law should be legislated to formulate a comprehensive program for the school modernization of our schools to improve the quality of our public school education.

Every state-of-art school should be equipped with modern science laboratory and computer facilities, complete libraries, well-lighted and well-ventilated classrooms enough to cater to students in the area, a gymnasium and a 1:1 textbook ratio, she said.

"We can harness the local school boards and private associations to get additional funds so we can maintain the facilities for these schools," she said.

DAR

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Region XII
Provincial Agrarian Reform Office
Kidapawan City

November 30, 2006

Notice of Coverage

The following landholdings in the province of Cotabato, the landowners of which are considered absentee, are covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP):

Land Owners	Title No.	Lot & Survey No.	Area	Location
1. Orlando Gepte	P-35817	593, Pls-59	7.0739	Ginatilan, Kid.
2. Maxima Diaz	P-34804	200, Pls-59	18.0739	Amazon, Kid.
3. Candida Diaz	T-44000	H-187101	17.7300	Kalaisan, Kid.
4. Leo Rellin	T-62671	114, C-2, Psd-12-00392	12.6846	Kalaisan, Kid.
5. Leo Rellin	T-62670	114, C-1, Psd-12-00392	26.000	Kalaisan, Kid.
6. GAMI, Inc.	T-53778	136, C, Csd-5055	3.6588	Katipunan,Kid.
7. GAMI, Inc.	T-28912	136-A, Csd-5055	21.4436	Katipunan, Kid.
8. Sultan Omar Kiram	T-23942	Si-V-22431	50.2012	Sikitan, Kid.
	T-24137	Lot 139-B, Psd-56193	24.6932	Sikitan, Kid.
	T-24138	Lot 139-A, Psd-56193	24.6932	Sikitan, Kid.
9. Rolando Mendoza	P-36699	76, Bsd-11021	12.4205	Macebolig, Kid.
10. Pacifico Mendoza, Jr.	P-35742	32, Bsd-11021	12.6483	Macebolig, Kid.
11. Eduardo Mendoza	P-35743	106, 98, 97, Bsd-11021	11.0188	Macebolig, Kid.
12. Eliseo Ferrer	P-32964	407, Pls-715	8.7970	Meocan, Arakan
13. Heracleo Ferrer	P-45627	84, Pls-715	9.9799	Meocan, Arakan
14. Gabriel Cajela	V-11325	879, Pls-498	8.9897	Doroluman, Ara.
15. Leon Dela Cruz	V-11324	882, Pls-498	5.5399	do
16. Sinanga Masangkay	V-11271	912, Pls-498	9.7595	do

(Sgd.) **ENGR. MARION Y. ABELLA, CESO V**
Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer II

(PDI – Feb. 24 & Mar. 03, 2007)

DAR

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Region XII
Provincial Agrarian Reform Office
Kidapawan City

February 14, 2007

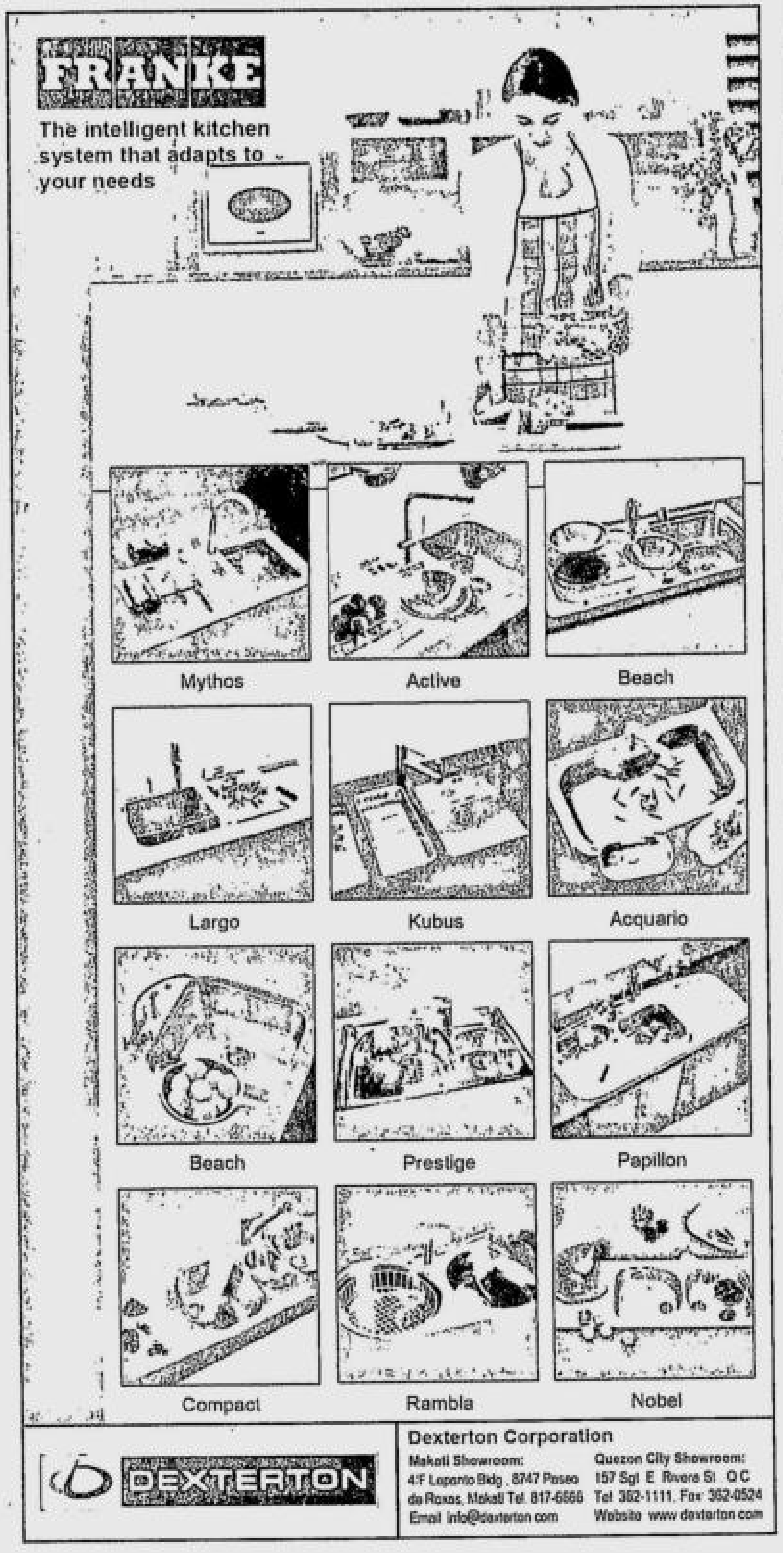
Notice of Coverage

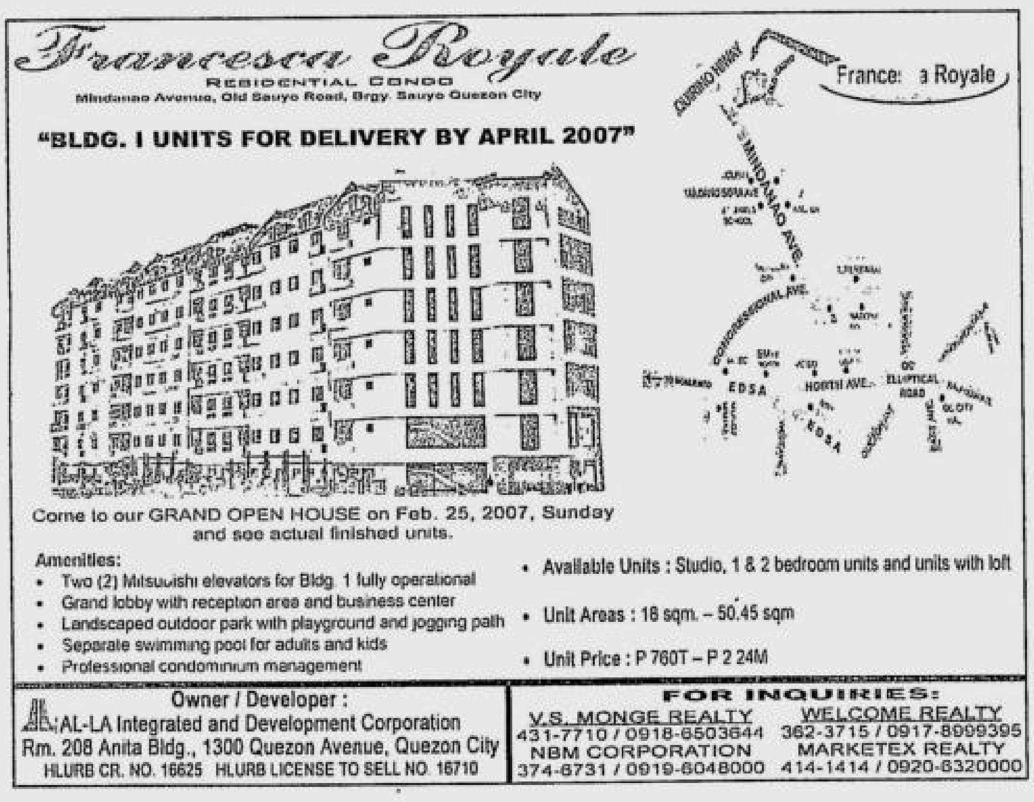
The following landholdings in the province of Cotabato, the landowners of which are considered absentee, are covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP):

Land Owners	Title No.	Lot & Survey No.	Area	Location
1. Heracleo Suguilon	P-45627	84, Pls-715	9.9799	Meocan, Arakan
2. Sixto Fajardo	T-59711	47, Pls-715	5.0063	Malibatuan, Ara.
3. Sixto Fajardo	T-8641	131 Bsd-20417	2.8647	Salvacion, Ara.
4. Samson Cezar	P-51430	351, Pls-715	9.9885	Malibatuan, Ara.
5. Alejandro Cezar	P-51428	352, Pls-715	7.4935	Malibatuan, Ara.
6. Protacio Chavez	P-40060	179, Pls-826	9.0619	Badiangan, Ara.
7. Abdon Lepiten	P-25223	6760, Pls-59	71.1034	Labu-o, P. Roxas
8. Bernabe Barrios	T-69574	159, Pls-556	9.9994	Tibao, Mlang
9. Bernabe Barrios	P-38546	283, Bsd-20417	4.4323	Kamarahan, Roxas
10. Bernabe Barrios	T-54087	2285-A, Psd-12-000292	5.0127	Buluan, P. Roxas
11. Bernabe Barrios	T-63102	164, Bsd-20417	4.7003	Salvacion, P. Roxas
12. Bernabe Barrios	T-65391	237-B, Psd-168712	3.9037	Kamarahan, P. Roxas
13. Justiniano Barrios	V-7432	124, Bsd-20419	4.7912	Amas, Kid. City
14. Justiniano Barrios	P-52340	C, Ces-12-0000009-D	2.9779	Gayola, Kid. City

(Sgd.) **ENGR. MARION Y. ABELLA, CESO V**
Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer II

(PDI – Feb. 24 & Mar. 03 & 10, 2007)


FRANKE
The intelligent kitchen system that adapts to your needs
Mythos Active Beach
Largo Kubus Acquario
Beach Prestige Papillon
Compact Rambla Nobel
DEXTERTON
Dexterton Corporation
Makati Showroom: 4/F Laparito Bldg., 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati Tel. 817-6866 Email info@dexterton.com
Quezon City Showroom: 157 Sgt. E. Rivera St. QC Tel. 362-1111, Fax 362-0524 Website www.dexterton.com


Francesca Royale
RESIDENTIAL CONDO
Mindanao Avenue, Old Sauyo Road, Brgy. Sauyo Quezon City
"BLDG. I UNITS FOR DELIVERY BY APRIL 2007"
Come to our GRAND OPEN HOUSE on Feb. 25, 2007, Sunday and see actual finished units.
Amenities:
- Two (2) Mitsubishi elevators for Bldg. 1 fully operational
- Grand lobby with reception area and business center
- Landscaped outdoor park with playground and jogging path
- Separate swimming pool for adults and kids
- Professional condominium management
- Available Units : Studio, 1 & 2 bedroom units and units with loft
- Unit Areas : 18 sqm. – 50.45 sqm
- Unit Price : P 760T – P 2.24M
Owner / Developer :
AL-LA Integrated and Development Corporation
Rm. 208 Anita Bldg., 1300 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
HLURB CR. NO. 16625 HLURB LICENSE TO SELL NO. 16710
FOR INQUIRIES:
V.S. MONGE REALTY 431-7710 / 0918-6503644
WELCOME REALTY 362-3715 / 0917-8909395
NBM CORPORATION 374-6731 / 0919-6048000
MARKETEX REALTY 414-1414 / 0920-6320000

electronics depot
EVERYDAY! LOW PRICE!
Also Available.. PROEL INSTRUMENT CABLE
BEHRINGER JUST LISTEN.
Lower Level, Robinsons Galleria East Wing (Telephone No. 634-5554), 2nd Floor, Ali Mall Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City (Telephone No. 995-0397), 3rd floor, Pedro Gil Wing, Robinsons Place, Ermita (Telephone No. 302-0418), 5th Floor, Building A, SM Mega Mall (Telephone No. 633-3261), Park Square 1 Ayala Center, Makati (Telephone No. 752-7066), 3rd floor Festival Mall, Alabang (Telephone No. 775-0595)
ULTIMATE BASS GUITAR Package! FOR ONLY P 8,500.00
• Solid bass guitar featuring a 34" scale, maple neck, 20-fret fingerboard, humbucker pickup, volume and tone control
• ULTRABASS BT108 15-Watt bass amp with VTC Virtual Tube Circuitry, powerful 8" speaker, 4-band EQ, headphone output and CD input
• Accessories included: Highquality instrument cable, adjustable strap, 3 picks, padded gig bag instruction book and more
ULTRABASS BASS GUITAR PACK
ULTIMATE GUITAR FOR ONLY P 6,195.00 Package!
• Electric guitar featuring a 22-fret maple neck, solid body, chrome machine heads, three single-coil pickups, five-way switching and vintage vibrato bridge
• V-TONE GM108 15-Watt modeling amplifier with 27 classic guitar amp sound presets, 8" guitar speaker, headphone output and CD input
• High-quality instrument cable
• Adjustable guitar strap
• 3 picks
• Guitar instruction book and amp manual
• Padded gig bag
V-TONE GUITAR PACK
V-TONE GMX 210 FOR ONLY P 17,550.00
V-TONE GMX 212 FOR ONLY P 21,300.00
V-TONE GMX212
• 2 x 60-Watt Guitar Workstation with authentic V-TONE Analog Modeling
• Two original heavy-duty 12" Jensen&BUGERA™ Speakers
V-TONE GMX210
• 2 x 30 Watt Guitar Workstation with authentic V-TONE Analog Modeling
• Two original heavy-duty 10" Jensen&BUGERA™ Speakers
ULTRABASS BX300 FOR ONLY P 9,300.00
ULTRABASS BX600
• 60-Watt (BX300 30-Watt) bass amp in bass reflex cabinet
• Custom-made 12" speaker (BX300 10" speaker)
• Active extremely musical 4-band EQ (BX300 3-band EQ)
• Tunable, switchable Shape function for total sound manipulation
• Two inputs for connection of active or passive instruments
• Innovative patented** Dynamizer circuitry for ultimate punch at any volume
• Stereo tape input, power amp in, preamp out phones out
KEYBOARD AMP KX1200
KEYBOARD AMP KX1200
• Ultra flexible 120 watts 4-channel keyboard amplifier
• PA system with Effects Path and mic input phones out
FOR ONLY P 22,800.00

TRAVEL BAN

Abra gov placed on hold order list

By Jerome Aning

THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION HAS placed Abra Gov. Vicente Valera on its hold-departure list in connection with the charges of illegal possession of firearms filed against him before a Quezon City court.

Associate Commissioner Roy Almoro said he issued the hold-departure order against Valera in compliance with an order from Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 223 judge Ramon Cruz.

Thus, Valera will not be allowed to travel abroad without the court's permission.

In his two-page order, Judge Cruz upheld the courts' inherent power to restrict persons charged with crimes from traveling out of the country in order to facilitate the speedy trial of their cases.

The judge dismissed the claim of Valera's lawyers that the hold-departure order would violate their clients constitutional right to travel.

Cruz added that since Valera was out on bail, it was the court's discretion to issue the order, adding that prosecutors have submitted a police intelligence report that the accused planned to leave the country.

The travel ban on Valera stemmed from the charges of illegal possession of firearms, explosives and ammunition that were filed against the governor after policemen arrested him in Quezon City last Dec. 29.

He was apprehended after policemen manning a checkpoint flagged down his car which had no license plates and allegedly found firearms and grenades inside the vehicle.

Valera was later released from jail on Jan. 3 after he posted a bail of P310,000 for his temporary liberty.

Bureau records showed that Valera had been in the immigration watchlist since last Dec. 22, after he was linked to,the murder of Abra Rep. Luis Bersamin Jr., who was gunned down with his bodyguard outside a church in Quezon City last Dec. 16.

The watchlist order was issued by BI Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. upon orders from Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

US ship docks at Subic port

A US AMPHIBIOUS TRANSPORT SHIP carrying more than 600 sailors and Marines arrived in Subic Bay yesterday for a goodwill visit that includes free medical services and a ship tour for children, an official said.

The USS Juneau docked at Subic Bay Free Port for a four-day visit, US Marine Capt. Burrell Parmer said.

The sailors and Marines from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit based in Okinawa, Japan, will offer free medical and dental services to local communities and deliver items donated by families of US Marine and Navy personnel, he said.

Local school children will also be given a tour of the ship, Parmer said.

The goodwill visit is separate from ongoing military exercises between US and Philippine troops aimed at isolating al-Qaida-linked militants in the southern Philippines.

A 400-strong US military contingent is taking part in the Feb. 18-March 4 annual exercises dubbed "Balikatan," which means "shouldering the load together," with Filipino troops.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, February 24, 2007
Saturday After Ash Wednesday

1st Reading: Is 58:9-14
Gospel: Luke 5:27-32

Jesus noticed a tax collector named Levi sitting in the tax office. He said to him, "Follow me." So Levi, leaving everything, got up and followed Jesus.

Levi gave a great feast for Jesus, and many tax collectors came to his house and took their place at table with the other people. Then the Pharisees and their fellow teachers complained to Jesus' disciples, "How is it that you eat and drink with tax collectors and other sinners?" But Jesus spoke up, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. I have come to call to repentance; I call sinners, not the righteous."

Commentary

Listen again to what we are to fast from and erase from our lives: oppression, false accusation, malicious speech. And instead we are to practice sharing generously our bread and our care for the afflicted. And God will respond graciously, strongly, guiding us and casting light into our lives, giving us his Word. We must begin to resist evil. We must refuse to be mastered by sin, and practice goodness and justice. Matthew is called and he stands up and follows. We are called and we are to leave behind anything that hinders us from living in Jesus' company. This is the season when we examine our lives and know that we are sinners and we need a doctor. We need a change of heart—or to bend the knees of our hearts (Irish)—and when we eat with Jesus and one another, we are called to repent once again and become the bread of life, joyfully living and drinking the cup of our salvation.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications) & http://www.claretphilippines.org (Claretian Missionaries in the Philippines)

when you think copier
think COPYTRADE
BRAND NEW and reconditioned COPIERS available
RICOH FT3813 A3 • 13 cpm PhP 15,000 only
SALES • SERVICE • SUPPLIES
COPYTRADE®
749-8155 to 56 • 781-3472 • 749-8216
Copytrade Bldg., 550 MF Jhocson St., Sampaloc, Manila

idec AIRCONDITION
1hp Split Type Wall Mounted Aircon P16,500.00
1.5hp-P18,500 2hp-P25,000
2.5hp-P30,000 4hp-P43,000
Floor Mounted 3hp-P39,500
Floor Mounted 5hp-P55,000
Ceiling Cassette 3hp-P50,000
Ceiling Mounted 3hp-P39,500
Ceiling Mounted 4hp-P52,000
Ceiling Mounted 6hp-P65,000
Free Installation!
Available at MC Home Depot:Call:2432610,2414731,09192482183
Cebu-032-3465498,Davao-082-2358821. www.idec-aircon.com

KATO ICE CRUSHERS KATSUNO
BEAT THE HEAT!
M-240 P9,750.00*
YN-168 P21,000.00*
MS-6 P6,250.00*
KS-168 P25,885.00*
SYI-168 P42,120.00*
Visit Us at:
*ITEMS SUBJECT TO 12% VAT
Pilipinas Hino Building, Edsa Corner Madison St., Mandaluyong
Call Us At 633-8752/53
www.meritstainless.com

TAGAYTAY EXECUTIVE VILLAGE
1 minute drive from Rotunda / back of McDonald's & Olivarez Plaza
A dream come true
Own a lot for as low as P12,338 monthly
No downpayment scheme also available
CITYLAND
Leading Condominium Developer Presidential Awardee
2005 CNBC Asia Business Leader Awards Honor Roll (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
MAKATI 812-2222 818-8888
ORTIGAS 687-3333 www.cityland.net
MANILA 242-1212 243-6565

HOME THEATER SEATS
Choose from 5 designs. 17 possible configurations.
More than a dozen colors in fabric or leather.
Prices start at only P29,000.
Reclinable backrest, individual footrests, armrests, and cupholders. Other models with built-in storage compartments under armrests.
shop online at www.FinitureCollezione.com
SUNSHINE SQUARE- 312 SHAW BLVD., MANDALUYONG, METRO MANILA
TEL. NOS. 718.2675 to 76
Finiture COLLEZIONE

SEE THE DIFFERENCE
Whirlpool Duet Series Refrigerator
Available in the following:
WSG115 - 11 cu.ft. (Gray)
WSG95 - 9.5 cu.ft. (Blue & Gray)
WSG85 - 8 cu.ft. (Blue & Gray)
WSG DG – Gray
WSG DB – Blue
Whirlpool Home Appliances
SENSING THE DIFFERENCE
See the difference in cooling power. The Duet Series refrigerator guarantees freshness with its 360º Surround Cool feature.
See the difference in energy savings with its Foam-In Place Insulated Doors. See the difference in style with its Dual Tone Color finish.
The Whirlpool Duet Series Refrigerators... see the difference it can make in your home.
7-DAY SERVICE HOTLINE 732-7370
TEXT SERVICE 0918-9373783 WE SERVE QUICK RESPONSE MOBILE SERVICE
SHOWROOMS:
Quezon City Main Showroom - #22 D. Tuazon St., Quezon City 732-7370 loc. 101 – 103
Alabang - G/F Alabang Home Depot, Lot 103-117 Alabang Zapote Road cor. Filinvest Avenue, Westgate Alabang, Muntinlupa City 771-2272
Cebu - 3/F Sogo Home and Office Center, Ayala Avenue, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City (032) 232-1001
Makati - 2/F Anson Emporium, Pasay Road, Makati City 843-5046
Ortigas - 2/F Automatic Centre, Ortigas Home Depot, Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center 635-9010
3/F Anson Emporium, #23 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center
Taguig - Unit 256 MC Home Depot, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
www.whirlpool.com.ph
Exclusively distributed by: EXATECH

25 million people m
25 million people

Be part of the biggest cellular network in
who continue to enjoy the widest coverage,

25,000,000 STRONG.

ade the right choice.
cannot be wrong.

the country. Join the 25 million subscribers
he most innovations and unparalleled service.

25,000,000 SMART

ISSN
0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 22 No. 78

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/opinion

OPINION

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

•100% soy ink•

Denials

EDITORIAL

THE HEATED DENIALS OF TOP ADMINISTRATION and military officials and the personal insults they are heaping on United Nations Special Rapporteur Philip Alston only confirm one key conclusion reached by him: that the Armed Forces of the Philippines continues to be "in a state of almost total denial" about the "significant number" of extrajudicial executions that have been "convincingly attributed to them." Alston made this observation, as a representative of the UN Human Rights Council, after a 10-day fact-finding mission in the Philippines. While acknowledging that he didn't have the exact figure, Alston said the number of victims was "high enough to be distressing." And he blamed government forces for most of the killings, dismissing as "unconvincing" the military's explanation that these were the result of a continuing purge being undertaken by the communist New People's Army.

An unrepentant AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said that if anyone was in denial, it was Alston. He pointed out that the UN official refused to believe that the NPA did the killings. "Is he saying the NPA is more credible than me or the AFP?" he demanded.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez was even more angry and acerbic, saying Alston came with a "preconditioned mind" and allowed himself to be "brainwashed" by leftists. "You can tell that sonamagun he does not know what he is talking about. He is critical of us, but he is just a rapporteur ... a hired man from the UN."

One day later, Gonzalez changed Alston's job description. "Alson is not the UN," he said. "He is just a *muchacho* there."

If the UN hires people with Alston's impressive credentials as *muchachos*, no wonder Gonzalez isn't working there. But doesn't Gonzalez contradict himself by taking issue with the unflattering observations of someone he considers to be an inconsequential underling in the UN organization?

A lot more subdued and reasonable was the reaction of Malacañang. President Macapagal-Arroyo immediately followed Alston's recommendation to release the Melo Commission report on extrajudicial executions and ordered that P25 million be given to the Commission on Human Rights so it could "do more to investigate human rights violations." She also assured Alston that the government would use its resources to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of the killings.

For the President, that marked a significant and welcome turnaround from her practice of defending the military against any criticism of human rights violations and even publicly praising military officials linked to the killings, like the now retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan. But there seems to be a big disconnect between how she thinks now and the attitude of the top military brass toward the problem.

Alston has likened the military to an alcoholic who doesn't recognize that he has a problem. "Every military has its own excesses," he said, "and the challenge is to acknowledge it and do something about it."

So how far can the President go to bring the perpetrators of extrajudicial killings to justice in the face of the refusal of the military officials and her own justice secretary to acknowledge that there is a problem? How can she and they even begin to solve a problem that they claim to be non-existent?

There is one way for Ms Arroyo to break the impasse: she should find new people who will see things the way she sees them now and act accordingly. In other words, she should just let go of Gonzalez and Esperon, if she wants to solve the killings that have happened in the past and prevent more killings in the future. But will she do it? Can she do it?

Overfishing

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE MADNESS OF THE OVERFISHING OF OUR OCEANS shows no signs of abating... As fish stocks in coastal waters become more and more depleted, trawlers are moving further out to sea. Fishing fleets are also wrecking marine biodiversity. There is only one sane course of action: the government subsidies should end, bottom trawling should be outlawed and a system of strict international regulation for high seas fisheries must be established.

According to a major scientific study, there will be virtually nothing left to fish from the seas by the middle of the century if current fishing trends continue.

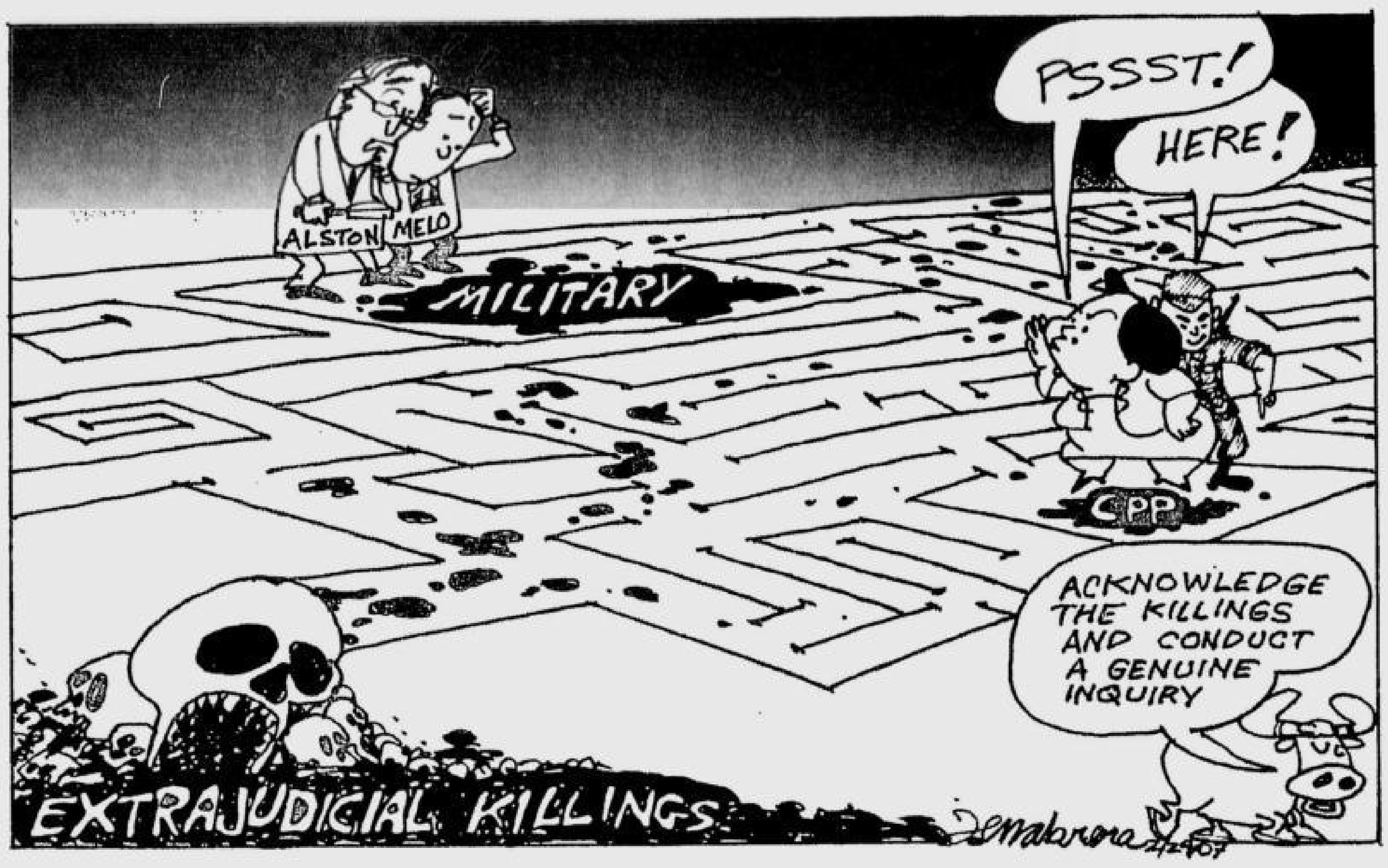
The Independent (London)

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Executive Vice President **David O. Valdes**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Sandy Simon R. Yap**

Readers' Advocate **Lorna Kalaw Tirol**
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



Posters and billboards

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

NOW THAT THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD HAS OFficially begun, we can expect the election laws, of all laws, to be violated instead of enforced. This has happened before and I feel it will happen again this year. The present Commission on Elections has not improved to raise the hope that things will be better; in fact, it has deteriorated so much to breed the fear that things will be much worse.

The most obvious sign of the candidates' contempt of the Omnibus Election Code, and the negligence or deliberate refusal of the Comelec to punish those who violate it, is the pestilence of posters that is likely to uglify Metro Manila again.

Chair Benjamin Abalos of the Comelec was reported the other week as having warned the police chiefs and barangay leaders of Metro Manila that they would be charged administratively if they failed to prevent the spread of illegal election posters in their respective jurisdictions. I hope he was not engaged in his usual double-talk that the public has long learned to distrust. He can improve his credibility this time by meaning what he says at last.

If he does not, there is still MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, who appears to be more sincere in his efforts to improve things in Metro Manila. Where the mayors of its component cities have been less than efficient in the correction of their respective problems, Fernando has stepped in to cure their deficiencies. While his measures are not all that praiseworthy, there are several of them, like the regulation of traffic, that have vastly improved the comfort and convenience of its residents.

Despite the alarming loss of lives and property caused by the many billboards hurled by the winds of Milenyo last year, and the tardy resolve of the government to prohibit them as inimical to public welfare, the iron frames for such billboards are still there, like skeletal threats to future negligently permitted injury. What is more—or worse—they are being used again, as if to dare another Milenyo.

I emphasized in a pervious column that billboards may be prohibited for being offensive to the sense of sight, more so if they threaten not only artistic sensibilities but the more urgent need to protect lives and property. The government failed to do this against the expected fury of Milenyo. Yet the billboards are back again, as with a vengeance, despite the pious promise of the authorities not to be deliberately tolerant or criminally negligent again against the criminal blight of billboards.

I was in Cebu during the last presidential campaign in 2004 and was impressed by the comparative lack of election posters that had already converted Metro Manila into a mammoth skid row. Davao City, which I also visited at that time, was relatively free of the nuisance that was bedeviling Metro Manila where, significantly, the offices of the Comelec and the police and military commands are located. It occurred to me that if Cebu and Davao—and possibly other cities too—could control the problem of illegal posters, there was no reason why Metro Manila could not do as well.

During the election campaign for the members of the House of Commons in 1964, London was not plagued with the poster problems we have been suffering every time we have elections here. All I saw in Britain's capital city were pictures of Prime Minister Harold Wilson, then running for re-election, without even his name to identify him; all the posters simply read GO LABOR, in all caps, appropriately enough, but without even an exclamation point. In California during the 1999 elections, I learned about the campaign only through small shingle-like signs recommending a fellow called Brown for mayor. I suppose the candidates let loose the boisterous hoopla during the party conventions, with the usual balloons, placards, parades and speechifying, but left the rest of the voters undisturbed during the campaign period.

By contrast, the Filipino people are less restrained and more demonstrative. I think it's in our nature to be extravagant, as when even poor families spend borrowed funds to lavishly celebrate town fiestas. Elections are also cause for festivities, to be adorned with colorful posters, showy streamers and mammoth billboards with airbrushed portraits of candidates seeking public offices for private gain. And of course the entertainers will have the advantage because they are handsomer although not necessarily smarter. Or even just smart.

I hope the electorate will learn to exercise their suffrages better this year and not be beguiled, as usual, with the enticement of good looks or intimidated by guns and goons as credentials for public office. I remember that when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ran for Vice President in 1998, there were big posters of her carrying a rose that she probably hoped would make her look like Nora Aunor to the star's millions of fans. That may have contributed to the defeat of Edgardo Angara, who was the victorious Joseph Estrada's running mate and is now GMA's lead senatorial candidate.

Errors in textbooks used by private schools

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE ROAD TO HELL IS PAVED WITH GOOD intentions, a saying goes. This apparently aptly applies to the case of primary and secondary level textbooks for private schools.

How did I come to this conclusion? Here is the story: Sigrid S. Rodolfo (Ph.D. Chemistry, Purdue University), head of the Luzon Technical Institute in San Antonio, Zambales, was in the Cubao National Bookstore searching for a suitable textbook for first year science. She came upon "General Science I," published by St. Augustine Publications (2005), with Magdalena C. Jauco and Rolando L. Caiquet listed as authors. (They also apparently co-authored a textbook for chemistry.)

The book had some attractive features, among which were the indicated range of topics. That it had large print was also helpful. Dr. Rodolfo almost ordered 200 copies, but she brought home only one copy for closer examination. And that's where she discovered "gross errors," especially in chemistry which is her field of expertise. She turned it over to her physics teacher, who also found errors in his subject.

In her letter to me, Dr. Rodolfo lists some general deficiencies as well as specific errors. Among the general deficiencies are—no credentials cited for the authors (I googled them. I found no items for a Magdalena Jauco, but a Rolando Caiquet is cited as an instructor in the UST College of Education); no index to help locate specific topics (which to me is a major defect); misspellings and faulty grammar; misleading or mystifying discussions because the basic terms used are unexplained; and the notes on prominent scientists are not related to the chapter topics.

Then she goes on to specific technical errors (and the pages where they are located)—which include an erroneous diagram on the classification of matter; another diagram which is confusing due to the omission of a key word; yet another diagram which is not only incomplete, but commits the gross error of confusing atoms and molecules, etc., etc.

Not one to just sit back and moan, Dr. Rodolfo went to see the president of St. Augustine Publications, armed with her copy of the book with all the errors marked; as well as a formal letter "written in the interest of improving our science education in the country. We hope you share the same concern, to better control the quality of the textbooks that bear the name of your company." Dr. Rodolfo obviously does not mince her words. Unfortunately, the object of her visit was "out," but his secretary went over the errors with her, and received her letter.

Dr. Rodolfo then asked for my help to "arouse attention from the bigwigs who have the power to do something." And help her I must. One can do no less for someone who could have taken the easy way out, but chose the more difficult one. Dr. Rodolfo didn't have to go through all that reading, marking, writing and calling (me, for one)—all she had to do was just look for another textbook. But she is concerned for the young students who will be assigned that textbook and will absorb those errors. She knows that if we want to teach good Math, Science and English, we cannot afford to ignore the textbooks.

Note, dear reader, the publication date of the "General Science I" textbook: 2005. That's long after Antonio Calipjo Go blew the whistle on the errors in children's textbooks; and certainly long after all kinds of promises were made by all and sundry to ensure the quality of textbooks. I remember, for example, that 18 professors of UP, experts in their fields, were called on by the Department of Education to look for errors in textbooks so that they could be corrected, at least by way of "teachers' notes."

First thing I did was to call the DepEd. Only to be told by Daisy Santos of the Instructional Materials Council Secretariat, division of Evaluation and Training, that while the DepEd may "set the standards" for the writing of textbooks, it has no actual authority, no sanctioning power, over textbooks written for, or chosen by, private schools.

This, thanks it seems to Republic Act 8047 (1995), the Book Publishing Industry Development Act. I am told (this is second hand—I haven't researched the issue) that until then, the DepEd had power of approval over all textbooks. But there was a clamor to "deregulate" the textbook publishing industry, at least for private schools. The reason? Because the private schools thought the textbook standards applied by the DepEd were too low. Good intentions.

Thus, private schools now choose their own textbooks. If there are complaints from parents, the DepEd's power is limited to calling the attention of the publishers, using moral suasion—unlike the real power it has over public school textbooks, which now must go through a panel of experts/evaluators for approval.

By the way, I am told that there are now many more complaints regarding private than public school textbooks. Ironic.

Can anything be done about this? Well, the National Book Development Board (NBDB) has a "Quality Seal" program, where it offers to evaluate textbooks for private schools. But it is voluntary—and has few takers. So private school students may be condemned to a hell of textbook errors, the road to which is paved by good intentions.

It is cold comfort to be told that there are textbook errors all over the world. The point is that, given the poor quality of education here, we cannot afford these avoidable mistakes.

Ecumenical prayer for Edsa Anniversary

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON EXTRAJUDICIAL, summary or arbitrary executions Philip Alston, a law professor of human rights law and international organizations, has such magnetizing blue eyes but, unfortunately, they seem to be quite blind to certain realities. To quote AFP Chief of Staff Hermogenes Esperon, Alston is himself "in denial" of the situation here. Alston was quick to blame almost the entire military for the extrajudicial killings, but he's obviously quite naïve, at the very least, about the nature of leftist organizations here.

* * *

Alston reportedly found it difficult to believe that some above-ground leftist groups could have links or ties with the New People's Army. He obviously thinks that the Left here is like his fellow travelers in developed countries such as France, Italy and India, where they seek to gain control of government through parliamentary struggle, not through armed means. What Alston failed to appreciate is that although the repeal of the Anti-Subversion Law in the Philippines has encouraged leftist organizations to surface and join mainstream politics, a number of them have chosen to keep their ties to the communist armed group. Military authorities have tried to make some above-ground leftists condemn the terroristic activities of the NPA, to no avail. Their silence became more deafening when the NPA extort protection money from the politicians.

* * *

Another difficulty is: While the Philippine military is highly visible because of its structured organization, the insurgents are not. In a recent TV interview with retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, host Ces Drilon asked him where the alleged assailants of military victims are. He said they're everywhere, for the fact is that insurgents are armed fighters at night but, perhaps, farmers and workers by day. Moreover, the military is constricted by well-defined laws and a punitive system, while the insurgents are not. Thus, as perceptive Star legal columnist Jose Sison points out, the military's strength is its own weakness. I recall how, at the height of the insurgency problem in then British Malaya, in the immediate postwar years, emergency rule suspended virtually all human rights in order to crush it. Here the leftists thrive on those human rights guaranteed by a Constitution they seek to throw out.

* * *

The following ecumenical prayer was specially composed by journalist Alex Magno at the request of the Edsa People Power Commission (EPPC), in commemoration of the 21st anniversary of the 1986 People Power Revolution. The EPPC has arranged, through the Department of the Interior and Local Government, for a simultaneous flag-raising ceremony in provincial capitols, as well as in municipal and city halls, across the nation tomorrow, Feb. 25, at 8 a.m., followed by a recitation of this prayer to be led by governors and mayors. A similar flag-raising will take place at 7:45 a.m. tomorrow at the People Power Monument in Quezon City, to be led by President Macapagal-Arroyo, former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, Vice President Noli de Castro, Metro Manila mayors and ranking government officials. The EPPC fervently hopes that this prayer, more timely and relevant in our national life than ever before, will also be recited in homes, churches, schools and offices around the nation in the days after the Edsa anniversary:

"Father of all the ages, You have given us the freedom to shape our destinies in unity and the virtues to surmount together the challenges that confront us in the quest for what is good.

"Where there is uncertainty and despair, You have given us immense capacity to Hope, so that we may see beyond the adversities of the present.

"Where there is much disagreement and tumult, You have given us the capacity to Love, so that we can move in non-violent ways beyond the things that divide us and build peaceful, strong communities that enable us to be the best we can be.

"Where there is much doubt and distrust, You gave us the gift of Faith, so that we may grasp what lies beyond that which is merely evident, and act with courage to redeem our humanity.

"In a sea of many voices and much confusion, You have given us the gift of Conviction, so that we may act with boldness and solidarity, to ensure a better future for our children and our nation.

"Once before, we had to summon all these virtues to replace a regime of fear with one of freedom, an epoch of violence with one of peace, and seek a path toward unity and humane development for our people.

"Father of all the ages, we are still treading that path, occasionally threatened by a flood of distrust or a tide of despair. There are points along that path where it seems we can push no farther, when we are gripped by doubt about the direction we take.

"We ask you, Father, to strengthen the virtues You have given us, so that we can build a society that is humane and peaceful, and a community that does not want.

"All we commit in return, Father, is an undying thirst for what is peaceful, what is righteous, what is good. Amen."

* * *

A grand reunion of UP students of the Padre Faura campus—from the "liberation" years up to the transfer to Diliman in mid-1948—will be held this Thursday, March 1, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bahay ng Alumni in Diliman, QC. Calling themselves the "Survivors," those expected to attend the P500/person luncheon will be students of the various classes held in the war-damaged buildings, such as the old Cancer Institute; and pioneers in Diliman, then a *cogon* wilderness. While admitting to thinning ranks, it's a tightly knit group that meets regularly and includes some very prominent personalities. Reunion organizers promise "no speeches, no politicking—just plain fun and camaraderie." Please confirm your attendance at 563-9272 or 921-2674.

* * *

Catch Makati Rep. Butz Aquino and Manila Hotel president Joey Lina reminisce on Edsa I with Cecile Alvarez and myself tomorrow at 9:15 p.m., over dzRH.

One secret of success

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.

John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues

THE VIDEO IS CLEARLY NOT THE WORK OF A professional or a product of any high-tech studio. The lighting at times is poor and there are background noises, but these only add to its authenticity as a farmer, father of a family in Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur, describes his effort to practice natural family planning (NFP). He recounts that at first when the time for abstinence came around, he found it very difficult. His solution was to go out and drink *tuba* with his *barkada*; after perhaps three glasses he would go home feeling tired and ready to go to sleep immediately! With time, however, he became used to it and could abstain without the aid of *tuba*.

The wife chimes in, saying how the joint effort required by NFP has improved their relationship and their mutual respect. Her husband sees her as a partner in building their family, not simply a sex object. And their daughter goes on to say that she owes the opportunity to study in Cebu in part to her parents' decision to have only as many children as they could afford to care for and educate.

Nothing here about the impact of population growth on gross national product or gross domestic product, or population management. It is simply a matter of the impact of family size on poor families and on their prospects for moving out of poverty. The impact is obvious in the case of small farmers with limited amounts of land: if the land is to be divided in the next generation among many children, there will not be enough to provide a decent living for each of them. The agricultural frontier is effectively closed; practically all of the land suitable for agriculture is under the plow and we have already cut far too deeply into the reserves of forest land.

What about off-farm employment? Education here is the key both in the rural and urban settings. And research shows as one might expect, that educational as well as health expenditures per individual decrease systematically with the number of children in the family. Education expenditures per individual in a family with only one child amounted to P5,558 in the year 2002, for a family of nine they were only P682 per individual; health expenditures per individual dropped from P1,700 for a family with one child to P150 for a family with nine or more.

Added to these handicaps is the shortage of low-skilled and low-paying jobs. We see this again and again at Payatas, and we are doing what we can by providing scholarships, mainly for vocational courses, to young people coming out of high school. The scholarships for vocational programs usually lead to minimum-wage jobs of less than six months' duration. Although even this is a much-appreciated boon to the families, the job market for young people even with some vocational skills is so tight that a substantial number of them at any time are "waiting to be called." Better jobs require higher education and educational costs.

The conclusion seems inescapable that, whether or not large families cause poverty, a large number of children makes it more difficult for them to escape from poverty.

Equally inescapable is the conclusion that children should not just "happen"; the birth of a child is one of the most important and momentous events in the life of a couple, and should be the product of a conscious decision on their part.

Some families, however, do manage to escape from poverty by way of education for their children. This is illustrated by the study reported by Queena N. Lee-Chua in the INQUIRER last Feb. 2. Her group studied young people from relatively poor families, graduates of public high schools, who have done well in college, even in elite colleges where they are competing with students from wealthy backgrounds and private high schools. The secret, they find, lies in values inculcated within the family, namely "discipline, goal-setting, self-reliance, strong family bonds and a conducive home environment."

Interestingly, these seem to be the same values which are promoted by NFP. This would suggest that practicing NFP may produce a double advantage to the family: the desired number of children, and children equipped with the values which can lead to success.

It is sad that discussions along this line among many Church people get hung up on whether or not there is a population problem, or on the specific method of NFP to be promoted. Whether or not there is a population problem at the national level, and whether or not it impacts negatively on national economic development, one needs only to visit a slum community to see the impact of family size on the poor. Meanwhile, about half of Filipino women are practicing some form of family planning, most of them by means which are not acceptable to the Church and which do not involve the values spoken of above. Moreover, one-fourth of women in the poorest fifth of the population want no more children at least for now, and are doing nothing to avoid another pregnancy. Here is a target "big as a barn door" for Church-sponsored NFP.

If the Church is to make its opposition to contraception credible, it must give poor couples a positive alternative, within their reach, at their doorstep, and not only in theory or in some distant clinic. The Prelature of Ipil offers one model of a program which is both broad and deep, reaching a whole geographical area down to the barangay and chapel level.

Energy independence: a perilous fantasy

WORLD VIEW

A. F. Alhajji and Gavin Longmuir

THE PARADOX OF TODAY'S QUEST FOR ENERGY independence is that pursuing it actually increases energy insecurity. However much politicians who call for energy independence might prefer it otherwise, the market has chosen oil as a staple energy source. So governments should ignore neither the valid interests of oil exporters, on whom consumers in their countries depend, nor the exporters' reaction to the rhetoric of energy independence or to steps taken to achieve it. Isolationist politicians may not care about other countries, but they should think twice lest they harm their own.

The biggest threats to the world's energy security are not terrorist attacks or embargoes by oil-producing countries—short-term events that can be dealt with quickly and effectively through various measures, including reliance on strategic petroleum reserves, increases in production and diversion of oil shipments. Instead, the main threat to the long-term sustainability of energy supplies is the mismatch between investment in additional capacity and energy infrastructure, on one hand, and growth in demand for energy on the other.

Major oil exporters can respond in a variety of ways to political posturing on energy, most of which exacerbate rather than ameliorate the global energy situation. One of the most plausible scenarios in response to calls by governments and politicians around the world to reduce or even eliminate dependence on oil is a relative decline in investment in additional production capacity in the oil-producing countries.

An energy crisis in this case is almost certain if those who press for energy independence fail to provide a workable alternative in a timely manner. Of course, these efforts will almost surely fail to replace oil within a reasonable time, as they are not market-driven and require heavy subsidies.

Indeed, confronted by the hostile rhetoric of political leaders, oil producers have a strong incentive to increase production in order to lower oil prices to levels that undermine the economic feasibility of alternative energy sources—a logical interventionist policy to counter the anti-oil interventionist policies of consuming countries. After all, a collapse in oil prices will be a death sentence for several new energy technologies, and, not incidentally, it will increase the demand for oil.

Even if the oil-producing countries do not intentionally bring about an oil price collapse, they might accelerate production as much as they could in the short term, while oil still had some value. But lower oil prices, coupled with expectations of a decline in demand, would in turn put pressure on oil-producing countries to reduce planned investments in production capacity or even to mothball major projects, as they did in the past, leading to a decline in oil supplies. Thus, if alternative energy technologies did not come online by the time oil production started to fall, global shortages would become inevitable, while closing the investment deficit would take years, even in the face of rising oil prices.

In spite of these possibilities, let's assume that plans for energy independence succeed, and that several European countries, the United States, Japan, China and India become self-sufficient. Major oil exporters could then seek to use their now less valuable oil at home as cheap fuel for an expanded heavy industrial sector. Instead of exporting oil directly, they could export their energy embedded in metals, chemicals and manufactured products at prices that undercut anything producers in the oil-consuming countries, especially Europe and the United States, could match, given their dependence on higher-cost alternative energy sources.

Energy independence thus could destroy entire industries, especially petrochemicals, aluminum and steel. In fact, cheap energy in oil-producing countries might make their new industries competitive with those in China, India and Southeast Asia. The net result would be a loss of jobs and weakened economies. Countries might end up energy-independent, only to become steel-dependent or petrochemical-dependent.

So what would come next? Would politicians, with their perpetual fascination with "independence," attempt to eliminate dependence one commodity at a time? Put another way, would the cause of "energy independence" seek to reverse globalization?

Oil is a finite resource. Only long-term, market-oriented, economically viable and sustainable energy options can ensure economic growth in both producing and consuming countries. Isolationist policies, by contrast, always lead to shortages and discontent. No matter how energy independence is pursued, it will never amount to anything other than an unattainable—and potentially dangerous—fantasy. ***Project Syndicate***

A. F. Alhajji is an energy economist and professor at Ohio Northern University; Gavin Longmuir is a petroleum engineer affiliated with the International Petroleum Consultants Association.

Life isn't about money

YOUNG BLOOD

Jazer T. Marcelo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

IT WAS NOT PREMEDITATED, BUT NEITHER WAS IT AN accident. Perhaps it was fate that brought me here to the world of NGOs. So for almost four years now, I have been working with non-government organizations—with two different groups, to be exact.

It is not where I had wanted to be. The first few years after graduation went according to plan. I worked in a multinational corporation, not earning much yet but contented and confident that I would rise up the organizational ladder. I was then a typical new grad, trying to make a name in the corporate world and extremely optimistic that I would rise from the ranks, and that someday money would start pouring in and I would be living the good life.

Then, fate began performing tricks. The company that I had seen myself working for until the twilight of my career started to experience the effects of an economic crisis. Who would have thought that a company that was so big and producing a brand that was so popular would need to tighten its belt to the point of forcing out workers who had been loyal through the years, just to remain afloat?

I was not out yet, but I found myself wanting to go. At that point, fate played another trick in a case of perfect timing. A former boss of mine in the multinational corporation suggested that I apply for a vacant post in an international NGO.

The decision to join the NGO didn't come easily. There were second thoughts and many sleepless nights, but eventually I decided to give it a shot. Anyway, I thought, the organization also had a good international standing. What didn't cross my mind was the effect it would have on my perspectives and how I saw myself and my future.

When I decided to join the organization, I told myself that once opportunity knocks on my door again, I would just pack up and go. My timetable was set for two years. After which, I promised myself to be back in a comfortable, air-conditioned office in the corporate world.

But strangely as days passed, I started to love my new job and my new world. So I spent a number of years in the organization, and enjoyed every single day of it. The two years passed and then another, and the strong desire to go back to the corporate world faded away.

Once again, fate knocked on my door. And this time, I graciously accepted what was presented to me. Yes, I moved on not to join another company, but another NGO.

At this point of my career, I find that I have fallen in love with the world I am in now. Many have asked me why, and my proud response remains the same: "There is an added feeling of fulfillment when you work to provide for your basic needs and earn a living while at the same time help change the lives of the many poor people in our country."

Just recently, I was fortunate to be sent to Nepal for training. Perhaps I would have been able to visit Japan, Singapore or another progressive country if I were still in the other world. Nevertheless, it was still a trip outside the country and it turned out to be a good one.

The mountainous country of Nepal is very beautiful. I boasts of many scenic places, an exotic culture and people who are as hospitable as Filipinos. Being the home of eight o the world's 10 highest mountains, including the highest o them all, Mt. Everest, Nepal is a popular destination for adventurous mountain climbers, including recently a handfu from the Philippines.

Still, it is not an ideal place to live in. The majority of the people are poor and many suffer discrimination. Kathmandu, its capital and business center, is in fact not as progressive as it is popular.

Filipinos are still fortunate to be living in our part of the globe. Yes, we have our share of problems, but we are in a fa better situation. Thanks to this trip, I started to appreciate al the things I have now and I realize that I am still rich, after all.

The best thing about this trip is that it validated the correctness of the choice I made to shift to the NGO world. As we visit project sites, the more I feel happy and inspired about my job and my world. As I see the improvements in the communities, the more I feel vindicated about my decision to stay. And as I see the transformation in the lives of the many people whom we work with, the more that I want to stay where I am now. I feel proud to be part of an organization that makes a difference and improves the lives of many poo people around the world.

My classmates in college continue to persuade me to go back to where money is. "*Walang pera sa* NGO," they keep reminding me.

It is not that I do not want to go back and earn big bucks for me and my family. I still desire to be there again one day but its pull is no longer as strong as it used to be. I still have that dream though, but probably not for now. Until the fire that burns in my heart to do something good for other people dies out, that dream of mine will have to be put on hold.

I enjoy the feeling of fulfillment I get from doing the little things that contribute to the achievement of my organization's mission and work. And I look forward to seeing the impact my efforts have on the poor, the marginalized and the disadvantaged among whom we work.

Anyway, life is not all about money.

Jazer T. Marcelo, 28, is connected with Heifer International Philippines, a non-stock, not-for-profit organization, headquartered in Little Rock, Arkansas, USA.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Most affected

"[T]he effects of climate change are being felt across the globe. But it is the poor, in Africa and developing small island states and elsewhere, who will suffer the most, even though they are the least responsible for global warming."

—UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon in a statement on global warming, addressed to environment ministers from around the world

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

A black eye for tourism

THE NEWSPAPER REPORTS ON THE ALleged attempt to kidnap Philippine Tourism Authority's Dean Barbers in tourist-friendly Batangas have given tourism a black eye.

If PTA's general manager is not safe in his own country, how do we expect to entice foreign tourists to come to the Philippines? All the efforts of our tourism attachés will go down the drain.

On the other hand, if Barbers' allegation is merely to cover up a "macho" act and a bloated ego, then he must resign. He must resign for hurting Philippine tourism's image, but more importantly, for concocting a flat lie. No apology will suffice. Good governance does not need public officials of such character.

The incident demands full disclosure of the truth and the culprit(s) should be punished accordingly.

—ROBERT ARQUIZA,
Asian Institute of Tourism,
Diliman, Quezon City

What the solemn duty to vote entails

THERE IS NO MISTAKING THAT THE 2007 election season is upon us.

As in years past, the Concerned Women of the Philippines wishes to call special attention to the solemn duty of all citizens to vote and, in so doing, to bear in mind what makes a worthy public servant—education and experience, integrity, honesty, a sense of public accountability and utmost dedication to the common good.

It behooves us, voters, to subject the track record of each aspirant to public office to a most rigid scrutiny, so that we can assure ourselves that those we elect will be the ones who can and will work for the realization of our people's aspirations.

We must earnestly ask that all of us, to a woman and man, take these reminders to heart, and with enlightened minds, make our final choices this coming May elections with a clear conscience.

—ILEANA REGINA F. CRUZ, chair,
Concerned Women of the Philippines,
285 Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, QC

False economics

BEFORE GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO gets sucked down by her false sense of economic achievements, will someone please remind her that the Philippine economy is nowhere near recovering? That our dollar exchange rate is down and our stock market is up are primarily due to international factors, such as the weak US dollar and down-trending US economy.

In fact, all other economies in Asia, mostly based on the US dollar, are soaring. For example, Thailand is now less than 34 baht to a US dollar.

The fact that our dollar remittances are high should not be a reason for rejoicing either. It only shows that more and more Filipinos, forced to work overseas, cannot enjoy their hard-earned money; they have to scrimp instead so they can send their money to their loved ones (back home), who need the money more than they do.

—JOSELITO SANTOS, Jslto@yahoo.com

Gov clarifies statement on Pacman's plans

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO THE NEWS item titled "Pacquiao says he'll quit boxing if he wins election." (INQUIRER, 2/15/07)

According to the report, "South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes, another oppositionist, criticized the administration for nominating a supposed 'incompetent' like Pacquiao."

It is very unfortunate that my recent statement in a radio interview, regarding standards that I believe all political parties must observe in fielding their candidates, was misquoted in the news story.

I wish to point out that my statement was not directed solely at the administration but to all parties, regardless of political affiliation. In that interview, I stressed a fundamental imperative: all political parties must thoroughly and carefully screen and select their candidates for both local and national posts in the interest of good and responsible governance. The parties must choose candidates who are endowed with the requisite qualifications, to ensure that the candidates are adequately prepared to fulfill the myriad tasks of governance.

While it is true that there is no particular profession best attuned to the demands of public service, I believe that academic preparation—aside from political maturity and exposure in worthy causes—is a necessary aid, if not a plus factor for one who enters the political arena and the world of public service. (Of course, honesty and integrity, and the strong will and passion to serve, are essential requisites.) This is a fair and reasonable standard. It is not meant to discriminate against particular individuals like Pacquiao.

My position on this matter has been consistent through the years. My faithful adherence to this standard is one of the reasons I opted to support President Macapagal-Arroyo in the 2004 presidential elections when actor Fernando Poe Jr. was fielded against her.

—GOV. DAISY AVANCE-FUENTES,
South Cotabato

What Sabah means: Asean brotherhood and fairness

THIS IS A REACTION TO TINA A. DUMLAO'S news story, "Malaysia still paying Sulu sultan's heirs." (INQUIRER, 1/18/07) Admittedly, it raised more questions than answers.

Based on documentary evidence, Prof. Muhammad Kurais II, in his 1960 treatise "A Historical Account of North Borneo as Claimed by the Sultan of Sulu," expressed the belief that the yearly payment of 5,300 Malaysian ringgits to the descendants of Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Al Ahlam of Sulu, the real owner and legitimate sovereign of Sabah, cannot be considered as cession payment because no descendant of the sultan, from the 18th to the 21st century, ever agreed to sell his or her real estate property, either to the British or to the Malaysians.

Kurais noted that on Jan. 22, 1878, Sabah owner, Sulu Sultan Ahlam rented out Sabah to "the British North Borneo Company for $5,000 a year for 100 years .... [after which] the territories shall be returned to the heirs of the Sultan of Sulu .... It was stipulated that the syndicate shall move away upon reaching the end of 100 years. January 22, 1978 was the specified date of this return!"

Kurais further noted that:

1. In 1881, the British Company acquired "sovereign and territorial rights" to Sabah "taken from the Sultan of Brunnai." How can a stranger give away land he does not own?
2. In 1888, Sabah became a British Protectorate and a British governor was installed.
3. "Effective July 15, 1946 the sovereign rights and assets of the company were transferred to the Crown of England." It suddenly became the youngest British Colony and Sabah was officially christened "British North Borneo."
4. When Malaysia regained its independence from Britain on Sept. 16, 1963, British North Borneo was handed over to Malaysia and became the State of Sabah, despite "extreme disapproval of the Republic of the Philippines," which laid claim to Sabah—a territory which rightfully belongs to the heirs of Sulù Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Al Ahlam, all bona fide citizens of the Republic of the Philippines, whose singular dream is the return of Sabah to them in the spirit of Asean brotherhood, mutual respect and fair play.

—DANIEL H. DIZON,
War History Club of Angeles,
Villa Gloria, 2009 Angeles City

Praises for DTI-NCR staff

I WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND OFEL CUnanan, Cesar Santos, Rene Tanchanco and a certain Lynn of the Department of Trade and Industry-National Capital Region (DTI-NCR) for being sincere and true to their advocacy for consumer protection.

Honestly, I was not too hopeful when I was advised by some friends to file a complaint with the DTI after negotiations with the seller of a defective cell phone that I purchased failed. However, I was proven wrong the first time I called the DTI hotline for inquiry. And when I went to the DTI-NCR's Trafalgar office to submit my letter of complaint, I was fully attended to by Cunanan.

It took me two months to complete the information the DTI requested. When I went back, the receiving staff (Lynn) still remembered my case. After I fully supplied the needed information, it took them only over a week to schedule a mediation meeting.

And to my pleasant surprise, the mediation team (Santos and his partner Tanchanco) gladly did their job—the first mediation meeting ran for four straight hours without lunch break. A settlement was reached in our second mediation meeting.

It is really consoling to know that consumer rights have a place in this government agency. To say that I was truly impressed with my DTI experience would be an understatement. I can only hope and pray for more people of their kind in government service.

—MA. RIZA CARASIG,
carasigm@dlsu.edu.ph

Clarification

Yesterday's editorial stated that former President Fidel V. Ramos did not make a statement at the Edsa anniversary wreath-laying rites held last Feb. 22. As of the writing of the editorial, he had not been reported to have made one. We regret stating he was as silent as the President was—and continues to be.—Ed.

Protected by Samsung.

imagine purer living with Samsung

Enjoy cleaner, fresher air with Samsung Air Conditioner, engineered with advanced Technology to protect your well-being. Silver Nano Technology kills 99.9% of bacteria while the Good Sleep Mode Function keeps temperature at an appropriate level while you sleep. With Samsung Air Conditioner, it's not that hard to imagine.
www.samsung.com/ph

Silver Nano + good sleep

SAMSUNG

Samsung Customer Contact Center: **TOLL FREE 1-800-10SAMSUNG** for PLDT or 1-800-3SAMSUNG for Digital.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2007 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER A15

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg.
Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Across the NATION
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions
Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

DENR keeps watch in Bicol areas for bird flu

SORSOGON CITY—THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources is keeping an eye on migratory birds in wetlands in the Bicol Region following another report of a migratory bird which appeared weak and ill when caught by residents in Camarines Norte a week ago.

Felix Mendoza, regional technical director of DENR's Protected Areas Wildlife Coastal Zone Management Service, confirmed that a sand piper, a type of water bird, was caught in Daet, Camarines Norte's Eco-athletic Field by a security guard who immediately reported his find to the police.

Mendoza said the bird was immediately buried by personnel of the DENR office in the province.

The DENR official said his office was regularly monitoring at least 18 wetlands in the Bicol Region being frequented by the migratory birds.

Mendoza explained that proper maintenance of the wetlands is important in the campaign against avian influenza as it acts as a sort of buffer zone.

"If these wetlands remain in good condition, the migratory birds would converge on these areas instead of going somewhere else like in the farms where they would be in close contact with humans," he said.

Among those being monitored are the Mabalite and Manguisoc wetlands in Camarines Norte; Ponong, Belen Balabanga and Biong-Pandan wetlands, Lake Bato, Lake Baao and Lake Buhi—all in Camarines Sur; Oas, Libon, Polangui wetlands in Albay; Malawmawan Island, Prieto-Diaz wetland and Pilar Egret Bowl in Sorsogon; Agoho Point and Panganiban wetland in Catanduanes; and Chico and Naro Wildlife sanctuaries in Masbate province.

Mendoza cautioned the public against catching wild birds as they are potential bird flu carriers. *Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Dead, retired teachers keep receiving salaries in ARMM

COTABATO CITY—BARELY A YEAR AFTER A multimillion-peso scam involving the non-remittance of insurance premiums for teachers was discovered, authorities in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) have uncovered yet another irregularity.

This time, it involved the continued payment of salaries to teachers who had long died or have resigned from the service.

Cynthia Guiani-Sayadi, ARMM attorney general, said they discovered during the continuing review of documents at the region's Department of Education (DepEd) office here that at least 31 teachers were still being paid despite their reported deaths.

Sayadi said other documents indicated that the relatives of the teachers have already claimed death benefits but in the payrolls, "they are still alive."

"These are some of the recent anomalies that we have uncovered," Sayadi said.

Twenty-five of those still receiving salaries were found in Lanao del Sur. Jolo has five while Marawi City has one.

Sayadi said in jest that because they are still receiving their pay although they have been dead for a long time already, these teachers were now considered "ghost teachers."

Sayadi said aside from dead teachers, those who have already resigned from the service continue to receive their salaries, at least in payrolls.

"We called the attention of officials concerned and those whose names are still in the payroll so they could air their side," Sayadi said.

She said charges will be filed against those found to have deliberately cheated the government.

"The worse penalty here is dismissal from government service," Sayadi said in the case of regional education officials.

The ARMM, which covers the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, and Shariff Kabunsuan, has about 13,479 regular teachers based on records. *Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

Abra cops said to be victims of politicians

BAGUIO CITY—ABRA POLICEMEN, who were replaced in 2005 for their alleged ties with warring politicians there, may no longer pose a threat as the election period begins, a non-government organization based in that province said.

Most of these law enforcers have returned to Abra "more conscious about being professionals after serving outside Abra," said Pura Sumangil, chair of the Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Government (CCAGG). She attended the regional development council meeting here on Thursday.

Sumangil said many of these policemen were forced into handling bodyguard duties for Abra's politicians, although they had since been returned to their posts by the Philippine National Police because it could not finance the relocation of their families out of the province.

Sumangil described these policemen as "victims," although she acknowledged that some of them received perks from local politicians.

The Commission on Elections has placed Abra under its control during the May 14 elections, and is proposing a reshuffle of police assignments in Abra, according to lawyer Julius Torres, Comelec assistant director in the Cordillera.

Torres said a Comelec task force would review the case files of the policemen who were implicated when a government fact-finding team found that Abra's politicians kept armed bodyguards and assassins in government payroll.

The team also confirmed that many crimes and violent incidents that occurred in the province had political origins, which were tolerated by policemen influenced by politicians.

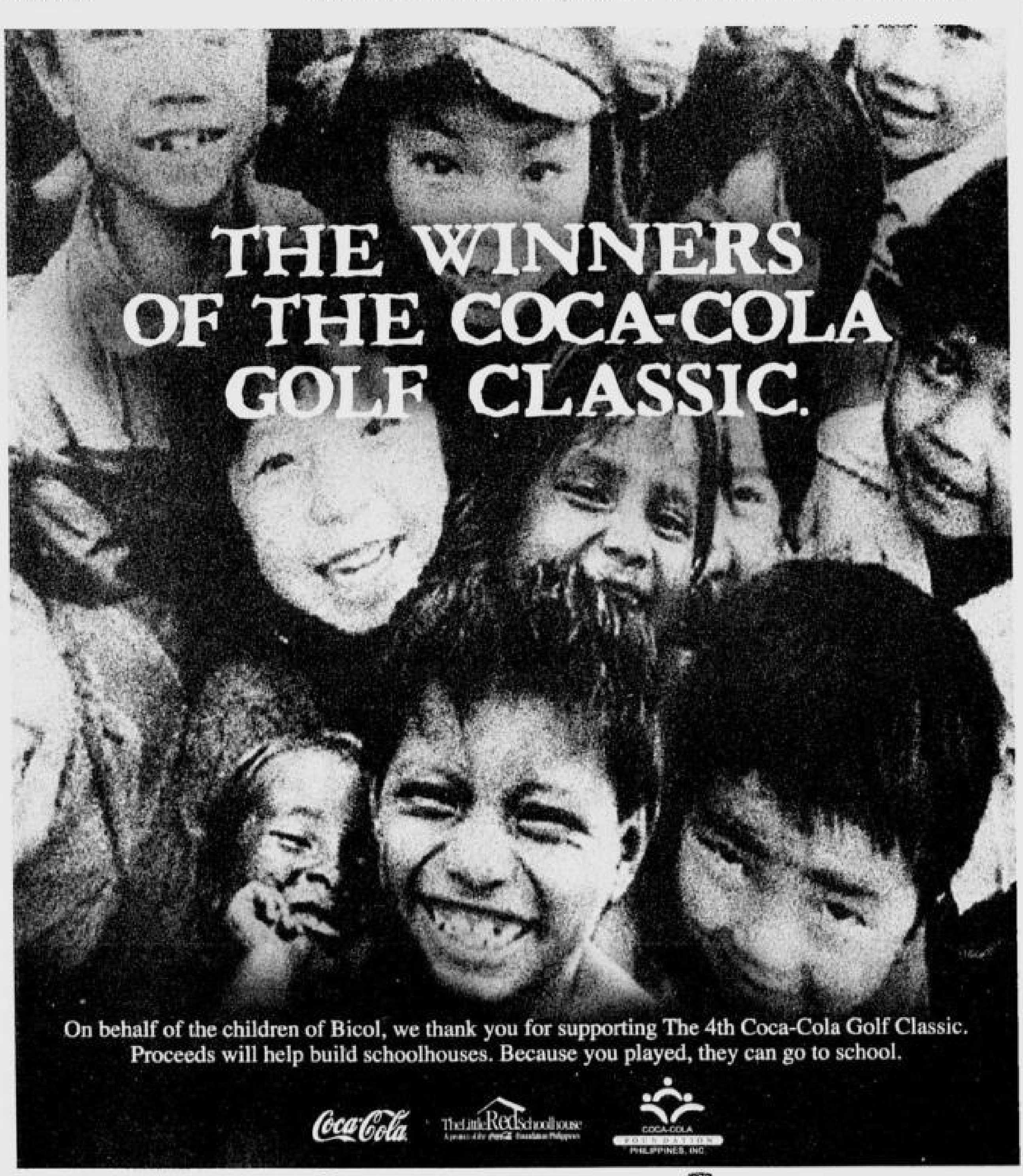
The team was composed of Commissioner Miguel Coronel of the National Police Commission, the Cordillera directors of Napolcom and the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and Director Jesus Versoza, chief of the PNP directorial staff, who formed Task Force Abra in 2005.

Based on their findings, former Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes replaced the whole Abra police force with joint law enforcement units that comprised Task Force Abra, and revoked the authority Abra Gov. Vicente Valera and 27 mayors had over the police.

Sumangil said Task Force Abra is still handling Abra's security and has been successful at keeping the peace.

But she said a permanent solution is still necessary to sustain the efforts.

Sumangil said Comelec had rejected CCAGG's petition for intervention in the 1998, 2001 and 2004 elections when killings occurred. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*


THE WINNERS OF THE COCA-COLA GOLF CLASSIC.
On behalf of the children of Bicol, we thank you for supporting The 4th Coca-Cola Golf Classic.
Proceeds will help build schoolhouses. Because you played, they can go to school.
Coca-Cola
The Little Red Schoolhouse
COCA-COLA FOUNDATION PHILIPPINES, INC.
ABS-CBN
GLOBE TELECOM
innove
SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION
GMA
bpw

Special thanks to: Citigroup, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd., Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De Los Angeles, San Miguel Packaging Specialists, Inc., Petron Corporation, Siemens, Inc.
AC Nielsen (Philippines), Inc., Asalus Corporation-Intellicare, Asian Tigers Lane Moving & Storage, Clover Plastic, Club Marinduque, Excellent-Gravure Industrial Co., Ltd., Hayama Group of Companies, International Flavours & Fragrances (Phils). Inc., King's Development, Inc., McCann Worldgroup Philippines, Inc., Phil-Data Business Systems, Shrinkpack Philippines Corporation, SGV & Co., Takasago Import -Export Corporation, Trends & Technologies, Inc., Jismar Equipment Supplier, A.M. Sison, Jr. & Partners Beauchem Industries International, Inc., Givaudan - Roure Ltd., Mabuhay Vinyl Corporation, Medical Plastic Corporation, Sunspring Ad System, Trans Asia International Freight Management, Unibest International Trading, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Oakwood Premier Ayala Center, 3-5-7 Boracay, Cebu Marco Polo, SPA 6750, Diamond IGB, Inc.
Media Partners: Philippine Star, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Chronicle, Manila Standard Today, NewsBreak, Malaya, Manila Bulletin, Business Mirror, The Daily Tribune, Manila Times, People's Journal, DZAR, DWIZ, DWAD, DWDD, DZRH, GMA 7, RPN 9, ABC 5, Energy FM, Magic 89.9, RMN

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
Mindanao Rural Development Project II
Rehabilitation of Farm to Market Road
(Loan _ ___)

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has applied a Loan from the World Bank toward the cost of Mindanao Rural Development Project II, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the contract for the Rehabilitation of Farm to Market Road.
2. The Municipality of Bayog, implementing partner of the Department of Agriculture, now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Rehabilitation of Farm to Market Road. Completion of the works is required by Two Hundred Forty (240) days.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Subject to exceptions stated in this Bidding Documents, only Bids from Bidders who pass an eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instructions to Bidders.
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Mondays to Fridays.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before March 26, 2007.
7. The Municipality of Bayog will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on March 12, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Municipal Session Hall, Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur.
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before March 26, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in cash, certified (manager's or cashier's) check, bank guarantee and in an amount specified in the bid documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on March 26, 2007 at 1:30 PM. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 1:30 PM, March 26, 2007.
9. The Municipality of Bayog reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **PABLITO A. MATIAS**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
LGU, Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur
Cell # 09177081461
http://www.zds-bayog.gov.ph
email add: **lgubayogzs@yahoo.com.ph**

(PDI–February 17 & 24, 2007)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION
5/F DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. +632 929 6626 loc. 2194; 2239
Telefax Nos. +632 929 6626 loc. 2193

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

Supply and Installation of Aids to Navigation for the Pasig River Safety and Security Program

The PRRC, through the General Appropriations Act of 2007 intends to apply the sum of **Twenty Two Million One Hundred Twenty Thousand Seven Hundred Nineteen and 00/100 Pesos (P22,120,719.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **Supply and Installation of Aids to Navigation for the Pasig River Safety and Security Program (PRFS-ATN-01).** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The PRRC now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **Supply and Installation of Aids to Navigation for the Pasig River Safety and Security Program (PRFS-ATN-01).** Delivery of GOODS is required starting **April 11, 2007.** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.**

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
5/F DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from **February 24 to March 2, 2007, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.** at the address below upon submission of Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **FIFTEEN THOUSAND PESOS (Php 15,000.00).** The method of payment shall be made only upon a certification by the Head of the Procuring Entity to the effect that the Goods have been rendered or delivered in accordance with the terms of the Contract and have been duly inspected and accepted. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The PRRC-IABAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **March 5, 2007, 10:00 A.M.** at the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, PRRC Conference Room, 5F DENR Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **March 19, 2007, 10:00 A.M.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount stated in the Bid Data Sheet or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on **March 19, 2007, 10:30 A.M.** at the **PRRC Conference Room.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
5/F DENR Main Building, Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. +632 926 6449
Telefax No. +632 926 5233; 926 6449

(Sgd.) **Atty. ZOILO L. ANDIN, JR.**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Feb. 18 & 24, 2007)

C. Luzon war on red tape praised

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Sen. Manuel Roxas II hailed Central Luzon officials in their success at eliminating red tape in the issuance of permits and licenses, saying this highlighted the vital role of local government units (LGUs) in economic development.

"I hope that your success in the fight against red tape and complex bureaucratic procedures will be emulated by local leaders, department heads and regional offices all over the country," Roxas said in last Tuesday's recognition rites for 24 LGUs that excelled in the streamlining program.

The Central Luzon Investment Coordinating Council, chaired by Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III, began the program five years ago in response to President Macapagal-Arroyo's thrust to cut red tape in support of local businesses and new investments.

Roxas said the program, co-implemented with the regional Department of Trade and Industry, also succeeded because of the "remarkable foresight and political will" of Joson who also heads the Central Luzon Growth Corridor Foundation Inc.

DTI Regional Director Blesila Lantayona said the program sought to reduce documentary requirements, turnaround time, number of signatories, and cost of fees in the processing of business licenses and permits.

It also aimed to put in place client-friendly systems and procedures through the Business One-Stop Shop (BOSS). It encouraged LGUs to use computers and go on-line for transactions.

The program involved 127 out of 130 cities and towns in the region.

According to Roxas, the simplified procedures gave the LGUs "clear advantage over other competing localities in attracting investors."

"By applying the principles of good governance, the benefits of economic growth will be funneled by LGUs to the Filipino masses with whom they are closest at a quicker pace," the senator added.

ROXAS

A report summarizing the results of the program said the average turnaround time in permit and license processing had been "fast" and "business friendly."

Mayors' permits were issued within 15 minutes or up to five days. That used to take two weeks to a month.

Business name certificates, usually given in a month or two, were released at a minimum of an hour or a maximum of two days.

Sales promotion permits were available in an hour, instead of the usual 48 hours.

Environmental clearance certificates, that took a year or two to be issued, were approved after 120 to 150 days.

In Pampanga's City of San Fernando, business permit renewal took an hour and 47 minutes as of Jan. 12. New applications take a day, two hours and two minutes.

The report said LGUs earned significant revenues after they improved the business registration system.

Tarlac City reported a 68.52-percent increase in income in 2006. Baler in Aurora province posted a 15-percent revenue rise and 63-percent increase in registrants in the first quarter of 2006 through the town's BOSS. Iba in Zambales reported a 53-percent growth in revenues. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

mercury drug
NAKAKASIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO
DISCOUNTS FOR SUKI CARD HOLDERS!
SUKI SABADO SPECIAL
FEB 24 TO [illegible] 2007

DIMENSION
GRAVITY
PULSE
UNLIMIT
AXE DEO SS 75ML
REG. PRICE: P 61.75
PAY ONLY 58.50

NIVEA CR 30ML
REG. PRICE: P 61.75
PAY ONLY 58.50

NIVEA CR 60ML
REG. PRICE: P 106.50
PAY ONLY 101.00

NIVEA CR 150ML
REG. PRICE: P 196.75
PAY ONLY 186.75

NIVEA INT MSTRZNG MLK 75 ML
REG. PRICE: P 61.00
PAY ONLY 58.00

NIVEA INT MSTRZNG MLK 150 ML
REG. PRICE: P 90.50
PAY ONLY 85.75

NIVEA INT MSTRZNG MLK 250 ML
REG. PRICE: P 136.75
PAY ONLY 129.75

PONDS COLD CR 50ML
REG. PRICE: P 76.00
PAY ONLY 72.25

PONDS COLD CR 100ML
REG. PRICE: P 130.75
PAY ONLY 124.00

PONDS MSTRZNG CRM 50ML
REG. PRICE: P 75.00
PAY ONLY 71.25

PONDS COLD CR WLEM 50ML
REG. PRICE: P 76.00
PAY ONLY 72.25

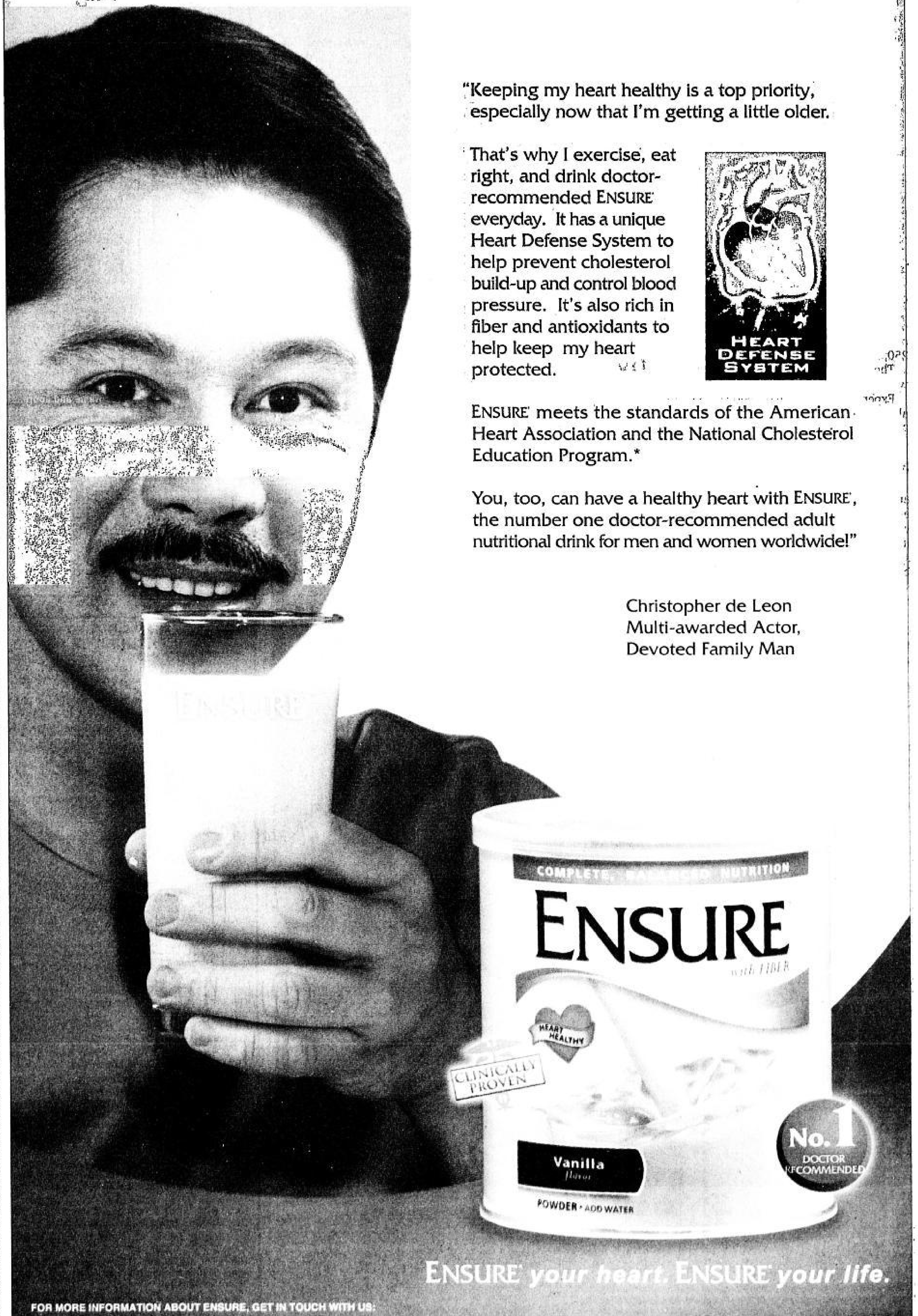
RLXNG
RVTLZ
RMNCE
PALMO SH AROMAT 100ML
REG. PRICE: P 42.50
PAY ONLY 40.25

PALMO SH 100ML
BL A-DD
ACTV NRSH
PK INTEN MSTR
VLET SSTRGT
WH BRIL SHNE
YEL FRSH&B
OR HR RPAIR
REG. PRICE: P 42.50
PAY ONLY 40.25

Suki Card Program Guidelines
1. The Suki Card Program is available to all customers over 18 years old.
2. To receive a Suki Card, customer must present receipt(s) of single or cumulative purchases worth P1,000.00 made from any Mercury Drug Store.
2. Suki Card Members are entitled to discounts from participating products.
4. All purchases made through the Suki Card will earn points. Every purchase of P200.00 is equivalent to 1 point.
5. Mercury Drug Suki Points are redeemable in multiples of 10 points. Every Suki Point is equivalent to P1.00.
6. Always present your Suki Card before making any purchases.
7. Mercury Drug reserves the right to modify or restrict the usage of the card without prior notice.

[illegible] PER DOH-BFAD PERMIT NO. 0107 S. 2007
The Suki Card program is available in all branches Metro Manila including Bulacan Visayas & Mindanao including Bulacan (except Baliuag), Cavite, Laguna (except San Pablo), Rizal, Baguio, B.U. Arcada Daraga, Daet Lukban, Daet Pandes, Dagupan AB Fernandez, Dagupan Arellano Bani, Dagupan Perez Blvd., Iriga JP Rizal, La Trinidad KS, [illegible], Legaspi Old Albay, Legaspi Rizal, Nabua, Naga Abella, Naga Ave. Square, Naga [illegible], Peñafrancia, Polangui Usalw, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga, San Fernando [illegible] Quezon, San Fernando La Union Rizal, Tabaco Ziga and [illegible] quantities on all items. These promo discounts [illegible] any other discount privilege. For other promos, [illegible].com

To keep my heart healthy and protected, I drink ENSURE everyday!



"Keeping my heart healthy is a top priority, especially now that I'm getting a little older.

That's why I exercise, eat right, and drink doctor-recommended ENSURE everyday. It has a unique Heart Defense System to help prevent cholesterol build-up and control blood pressure. It's also rich in fiber and antioxidants to help keep my heart protected.

ENSURE meets the standards of the American Heart Association and the National Cholesterol Education Program.*

You, too, can have a healthy heart with ENSURE, the number one doctor-recommended adult nutritional drink for men and women worldwide!"

Christopher de Leon
Multi-awarded Actor,
Devoted Family Man

ENSURE your heart. ENSURE your life.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ENSURE, GET IN TOUCH WITH US:

ABBOTT HOTLINE Call: 689-0444 • Fax: 637-8252 • Email: hcs.ph@abbott.com • Text: Type ABBOTT <space> your message Send to 2327 (Globe) or 0917-8902327 (non-Globe) • Toll free Line: 1-800-108-433-HCS (Available Mondays to Fridays, 8 am to 5 pm)

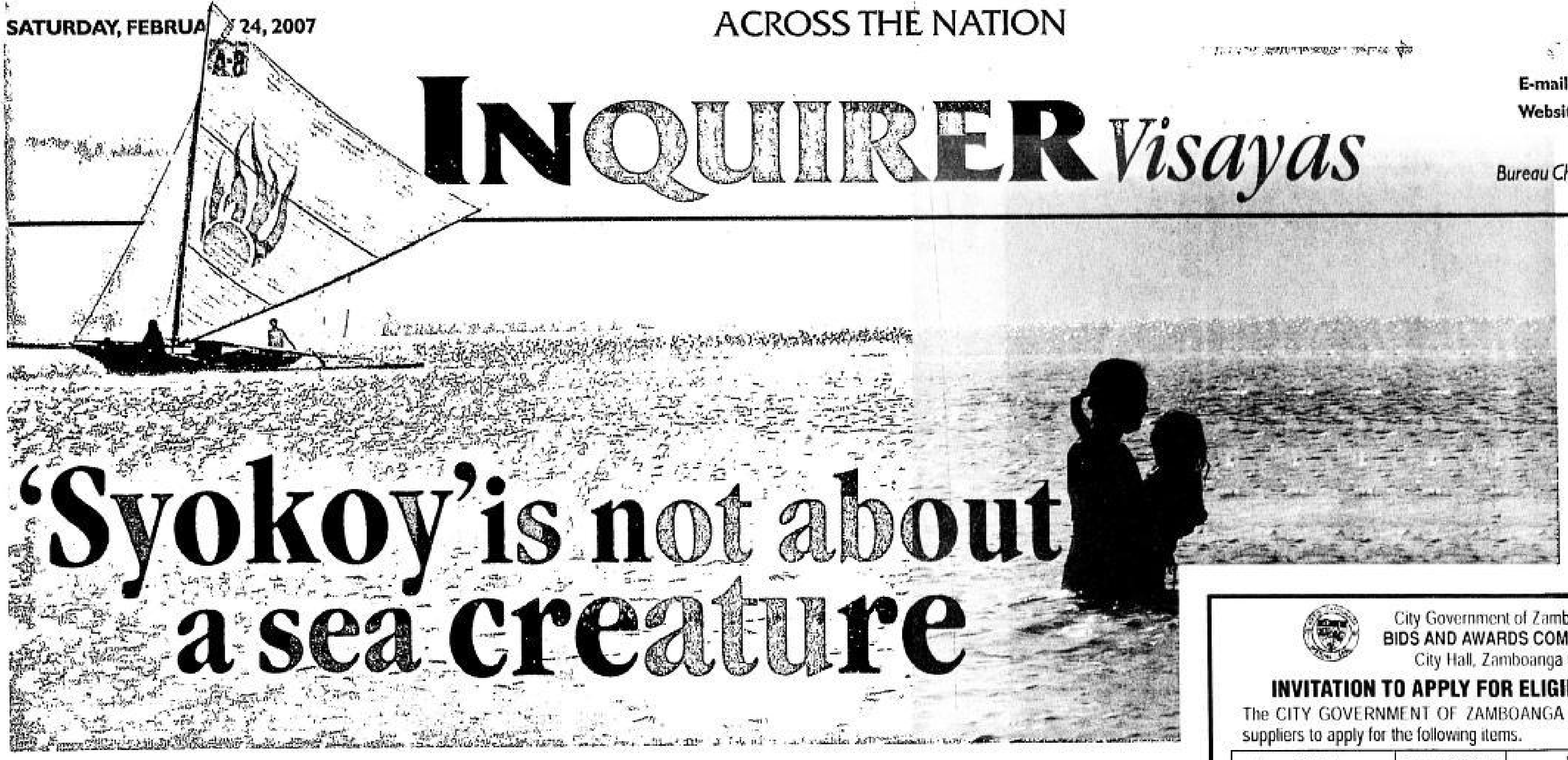
* On the level of dietary cholesterol and sodium, and the absence of trans fats

www.abbott.com.ph

70
Abbott
A Promise for Life

INQUIRER Visayas

E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto



TO MAKE sure the Petron oil spill that devastated Guimaras will be remembered even amid a celebration of colors, some participants in the 35th Paraw Regatta designed a sail depicting efforts to bring back Guimaras and the Iloilo Sea to life after the spill.

ARNOLD ALMACEN

'Syokoy' is not about a sea creature

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

SYOKOY," A FILM DOCUMENtary on the Petron oil spill in Guimaras produced by young filmmakers in Iloilo, gathers what journalists leave out, like stories on the disaster's effects that are not given much space in the newspapers.

It's not about whose craft is better, but the power of the film lies in its lingering effect.

It captured stories and the symbols of the daily acts of people who are trying to recover and find healing for their coastal communities that were devastated by the oil spill.

The film has captured more than sound bites, slices of life and atmosphere.

Syokoy won third place in the recently concluded 19th Gawad CCP para sa Pelikula at Video. It was also named the best regional entry. It was directed by Ray Defante Gibraltar and written by John Iremil Teodoro. Oscar Nava was in charge of the cinematography.

The film, which runs for more than an hour, is about the destruction and how people cope with the effects of the oil spill that took place on Aug. 11 last year when oil tanker MT Solar I, which was chartered by Petron and carried more than 2 million liters of bunker oil, sank off Guimaras province, releasing some 250,000 liters of bunker oil into the sea.

The tanker still lies at the bottom of the sea with thousands of liters of oil still inside it.

Experts can't agree on the costs of the actual and long-term damage of the oil spill on the province's rich marine life, fishing ground, tourist sites, health and way of life.

Metaphor

It is in rendering that makes Syokoy different from television news. The story was ushered by a tale told by a Guimaras fisherman who saw a syokoy when he was 10 years old in 1958. Teodoro wrote in the synopsis that a syokoy is said to be a malevolent sea creature but it is used in the film as a "metaphor representing victims of the destructive exploitation of the marine ecosystem."

According to the fisherman, Moro pearl divers overpowered the syokoy, said to be no bigger than a cat. The sea creature died guarding the sea pearls.

Teodoro said the film "demystifies 'syokoy' from a powerful evil being into a ordinary creature that is ready to defend the integrity and beauty of its natural habitat."

The fisherman's tale was put together with the stories of families hurt by the oil spill, among them the parents of 2-year-old Alijandro "Pogi" Castillo Jr., who died due to bouts of asthma and cough; the fishermen who despaired because their fish traps and nets yield no catch; and a woman with a glint of anger in her eyes because she could no longer wash plates, pots and pans in the beach using seawater.

The syokoy tale was also juxtaposed with the ritual of PG Zoluaga, an artist, who drenched his drawings in seawater and placed them around the four columns of a fish pen. The ritual was an offering to the spirits and the sea, he said.

Gibraltar said they spent weeks filming in Guimaras, staying in communities that suffered from the oil spill. In the process, they won the villagers' trust.

There were also difficult moments. For example, Gibraltar said the crew tiptoed when shooting the scene where the parents recalled how their son, Pogi, died and took them to the graveyard.

Syokoy is commendable for having assembled a big cast of real people who told their stories, one after another, as if floating onscreen. They spoke of what they felt and often against the meager charity offered by the government and Petron.

The film project would have cost at least P300,000 but Gibraltar and his colleagues filmed it with a few thousand pesos in their hands. Local artists—Zoluaga, Jojo Pineda, Ryan Fernando Teves, Arlene Moscaya, Rhodora Solis, Jack Triño, Enrique Guevarra Jr. and Eli Gegantoca—joined hands to complete the production work. Hazel Villa of Philippine Daily Inquirer-Visayas had contributed photos while campus journalists Elsed Togonon and Johnny Esmilla served as production assistants.

Syokoy is Gibraltar's sixth film but his first full-length documentary. A native of Guimbal, Iloilo, he attended filmmaking workshops at Mowelfund Film Institute in 2001. He studied Philosophy at Saint Vincent Ferrer Seminary and the University of St. La Salle, Bacolod.

Passion and rage

Gibraltar said at the heart of his craft as a filmmaker is the passion to engage and be enraged by what he saw and heard in the wake of the oil spill.

"I showed the cry for help and justice of the people affected by the oil spill. I focused on the aftermath, how people rebuild their lives. These things were no longer covered by media," he said.

The film also portrayed how people moved on and were pleased by signs of hope. For example, artist Kidlat Tahimik tied his red scarf around a mangrove sapling that was sprouting a leaf, which he said "was a sign of a healing process."

Young boys were also seen playing in the beach like they used to do before the oil spill.

And despite their pain, the Castillos moved on. They named their fishing boat "Pogi," in memory of their son whose soul must have been carried by the sea winds but which they know will always come back to bring them luck by way of a good catch.

> 'These things were no longer covered by media...'

GBP

INVITATION FOR ACCREDITATION

The Global Business Power Corporation (GBPC) invites all interested suppliers and contractors engaged in the supply, trade and manufacture of the following to apply for accreditation with GBPC

- Automotive / Heavy Equipment & Parts
- Chemicals (Laboratory, Prevenive & Industrial)
- Electrical
- Laboratory Supplies
- Mechanical
- Mill Supplies / Tools
- Packaging Materials
- Refractory Supplies
- Construction Materials / Industrial
- Controls and Instrumentations
- Fuels / Gases / Lubricants
- Office Supplies
- Paints
- Pipes and Infrastructure Materials
- Rubber Products
- Services (construction, retrofitting, etc.)

Only accredited suppliers and contractors shall be invited to participate in the bidding and/or negotiation of GBPC's requirements for the year. Those currently accredited with GBPC need not apply.

Accreditation Forms and Requirements shall be available for issuance starting February 26, 2007 and deadline for submission of accomplished Accreditation Forms and Requirements shall be on March 15, 2007 at the following offices:

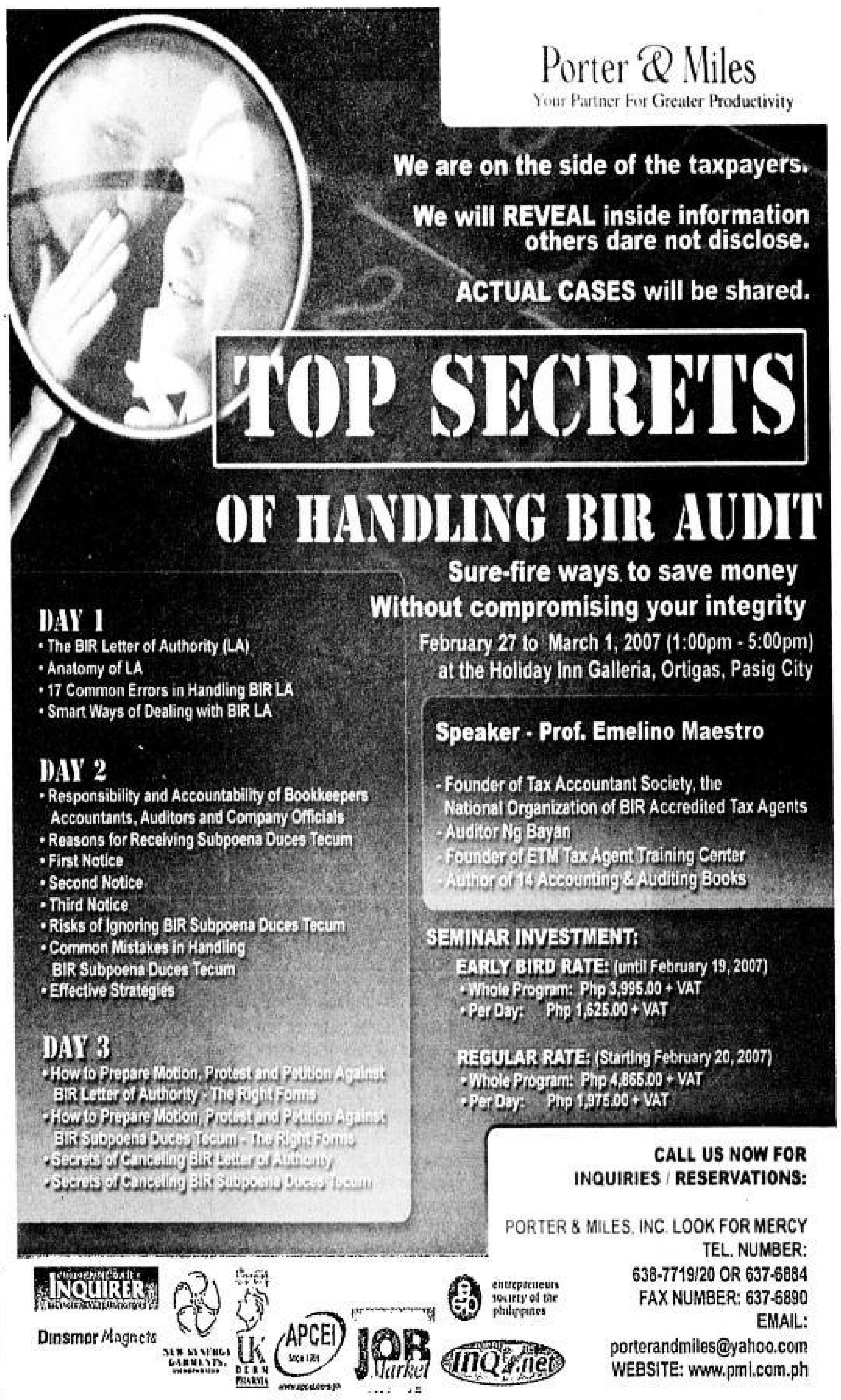
Procurement Office
Panay Power Corporation
Brgy. Ingore, La Paz, Ilo-ilo City
Tel No. (033) 3208775

Procurement Office
Toledo Power Corporation
Sangi, Toledo, Cebu City
Tel No. (032) 322-5803-04

Materials Management - Corporate Office
Global Business Power Corp.
Skyland Plaza, GF 2302,
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tel No. 889-4117

(Sgd.) ELISA L. DAYAO
AVP – Materials Management

(PDI–February 24, 2007)


Porter & Miles
Your Partner For Greater Productivity

We are on the side of the taxpayers.
We will REVEAL inside information others dare not disclose.
ACTUAL CASES will be shared.

TOP SECRETS
OF HANDLING BIR AUDIT

Sure-fire ways to save money
Without compromising your integrity

February 27 to March 1, 2007 (1:00pm - 5:00pm)
at the Holiday Inn Galleria, Ortigas, Pasig City

DAY 1
- The BIR Letter of Authority (LA)
- Anatomy of LA
- 17 Common Errors in Handling BIR LA
- Smart Ways of Dealing with BIR LA

DAY 2
- Responsibility and Accountability of Bookkeepers Accountants, Auditors and Company Officials
- Reasons for Receiving Subpoena Duces Tecum
- First Notice
- Second Notice
- Third Notice
- Risks of Ignoring BIR Subpoena Duces Tecum
- Common Mistakes in Handling BIR Subpoena Duces Tecum
- Effective Strategies

DAY 3
- How to Prepare Motion, Protest and Petition Against BIR Letter of Authority - The Right Forms
- How to Prepare Motion, Protest and Petition Against BIR Subpoena Duces Tecum - The Right Forms
- Secrets of Canceling BIR Letter of Authority
- Secrets of Canceling BIR Subpoena Duces Tecum

Speaker - Prof. Emelino Maestro
- Founder of Tax Accountant Society, the National Organization of BIR Accredited Tax Agents
- Auditor Ng Bayan
- Founder of ETM Tax Agent Training Center
- Author of 14 Accounting & Auditing Books

SEMINAR INVESTMENT:
EARLY BIRD RATE: (until February 19, 2007)
- Whole Program: Php 3,995.00 + VAT
- Per Day: Php 1,625.00 + VAT

REGULAR RATE: (Starting February 20, 2007)
- Whole Program: Php 4,865.00 + VAT
- Per Day: Php 1,975.00 + VAT

CALL US NOW FOR INQUIRIES / RESERVATIONS:

PORTER & MILES, INC. LOOK FOR MERCY
TEL. NUMBER:
638-7719/20 OR 637-6884
FAX NUMBER: 637-6890
EMAIL:
porterandmiles@yahoo.com
WEBSITE: www.pml.com.ph

City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA invites PhilGEPS registered suppliers to apply for the following items.

Name of Projects		Approved Budget for the Contract	Date / Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
			Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
1.	Motor Vehicles (Brand New)	P 15,000,000.00	March 02, 2007	March 15, 2007 10:00 AM	P 3,000.00
2.	Other Property Plant and Equipment	P 23,650,000.00	March 02, 2007	March 15, 2007 10:00 AM	P 1,200.00

The Bid documents shall be available at the City Mayor's Office, Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Division, City Hall, Zamboanga City starting **February 07 to 27, 2007** upon payment of non-refundable fee indicate above.

The Pre-Bid conference shall be held at **City Engineer's Office, Conference Hall, City Hall, Zamboanga City.**

The Bidder shall drop and enclose the original of the Technical Proposal in one sealed envelope; whereas, the original of the Financial Proposal shall be enclosed in another sealed envelope. Both envelopes shall then be placed in another single envelope. In the bid box located at the abovementioned address.

For more information, please call the Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Division at telephone no. **(062) 992-7763.**

The **CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) ATTY. SAMUEL A. MARIANO
BAC Vice-Chairman

(PDI – February 24, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
NEXTFOCUS, INC. G/F Unioil Center Building, 1222 Acacia St., cor. Commerce Ave., Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Ryuichiro Muro	Customer Service Representative (CSR) Japan Program
WONDERPHIL CONSULTANT CORP. Unit F, 7/F Westgate Tower, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Cheongmi Kim	Assistant Manager
YUPANGCO MUSIC CORPORATION Yupangco Building, 339 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. N. Garcia St., Makati City	Takao Suzuki	Executive Vice President
GEOTEX CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC. Suites 1406-1407, 14/F PSE Tower 1, Exchange Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Tuvia Levy	Security Consultant
KJL TOUR LEADER CORP. 1102 Pearl of the Orient Tower, 1240 Roxas Blvd., Manila	Sukkyoung Lee (w/o Choi)	Assistant Account Manager
PHILIPPINE HOTELIERS, INC. Dusit Hotel Nikko, Ayala Ctr., Makati City	Jun Midorikawa	Susi Chef
RTG STUDIO, INC. L/G Export Bank Plaza cor. P. Tamo & G. Puyat Ave., Makati City	Samsu Kho	Studio Manager
PARAGON INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMER CARE LIMITED 27/F RCBC Plaza, Yuchengco Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Maya Harutz	Payment Processing Staff
PARAGON INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMER CARE LIMITED 27/F RCBC Plaza, Yuchengco Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Itai Goldshlager	Customer Support Staff
PARAGON INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMER CARE LIMITED 27/F RCBC Plaza, Yuchengco Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Amit Pinhas Neeman	Customer Support Staff
PARAGON INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMER CARE LIMITED 27/F RCBC Plaza, Yuchengco Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Alexander Petrovich	Customer Support Staff
PARAGON INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMER CARE LIMITED 27/F RCBC Plaza, Yuchengco Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Shona Faye Seraphine Durand	Payment Processing Staff
PARAGON INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMER CARE LIMITED 27/F RCBC Plaza, Yuchengco Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Elad Yizhak Beni	Customer Support Staff
PARAGON INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMER CARE LIMITED 27/F RCBC Plaza, Yuchengco Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Kristina Gutmann	Payment Processing Staff
SYSTEM FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INC. Unit 701, 7th Floor West Tektite Tower, PSE Ctr. Exchange Rd., Brgy. San Antonio, Pasig City	Yoshihiro Fujisawa	General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI – February 24, 2007)

Business feuds clouding Baguio flower festival

BAGUIO CITY—BUSINESSMEN here staged a protest rally here on Thursday to ask the city government to shut down several trade fairs operating at Burnham Park under the sponsorship of the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation Inc. (BFFFI) because these represented "unfair trade competition."

The trade fairs, which occupy portions of Burnham Park, are part of this year's staging of the Panagbenga (Baguio Flower Festival), which will be highlighted by a street dancing competition today (Saturday, Feb. 24) and floral float parades on Sunday (Feb. 25).

Acting Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. signed on Wednesday 162 administrative orders closing many of the stalls of the festivals' International Trade Fair and Mindanao Bazaar, for violating the city's sanitation and business laws.

Mounting criticisms have also forced the city council to study a withdrawal of the resolutions that legitimized the ongoing Panagbenga bazaars.

Panagbenga 200
FOOD WASTE
BIO-DEGRADABLES

PREPARATIONS for the Baguio flower festival continue amid an ongoing war over businesses that the festival brings. Acting Baguio mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. receives 35 trash bins donated by a telecommunications firm on Thursday to replace the city's trash cans. EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Decision

Lawyer Damaso Bangaoet, BFFFI chair, said his organizers would not contest the city's decision.

This was the second controversy to hit this year's festival. Weeks before the festival opened, local businessmen and a business group hired by the festival organizers fought over control of the city's sidewalks.

Organizers wanted to stop businessmen from extending their enterprises to the sidewalks during a weeklong activity called "Session Road in Bloom," when the stretch of the main downtown street was converted into a promenade area.

The businessmen eventually agreed to display their products or services on half of the sidewalks.

About 60 businessmen operating establishments in downtown Baguio and the public market said their losses are worse than those they suffered when a fatal meningitis strain hit the summer capital in late 2004 and early 2005.

In a letter transmitted to the mayor's office, the traders cited the ordinances issued in 1994 and 1997 that "prohibit undue competition" and the sale of "sidewalk items, such as, but not limited to smuggled items, imitations of brand names, obscene gadgets and paraphernalia, and products in direct competition with those sold by legitimate businesses."

The trade fairs were promoted as venues for new cultural items, but the businessmen said the bazaars ended up selling the same products found in local stores, including *chicharon* (pork crackling).

"Much as we would like to try to make this a non-election issue, we would like to remind you of your promises to your very own constituents—to protect their rights under the law and the ordinances that you pass and implement," the businessmen said in a letter to the mayor. *Vincent Cabreza with a report from EV Espiritu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

ROUNDUP

Aussie girl seized

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—A two-year-old daughter of an Australian continued to be held by her kidnappers four days after she was abducted in Castillejos, Zambales, the police said. The suspects have not started negotiations with the girl's parents, Andrew David Rhodes and Cielo Inocencio, or demanded ransom for the child's release, according to Supt. Jerry Sumbad, Castillejos police chief. Sumbad said eight armed men abducted the girl. Five of them barged through the front door of the couple's house at Sitio San Isidro in Barangay San Pablo at 10 p.m. on Feb. 20 as the family watched TV in the living room. Three gunmen entered through the kitchen door and took the girl after one of them said, "*Ipapadoktor lang ang bata* (We will only bring the kid to a doctor)," Sumbad said. An INQUIRER source in the police said a custody war could be behind the abduction.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

'Lingap Eskwela'

MORE THAN 300,000 students and faculty members in more than 100 public schools now enjoy 24-hour supply of potable and affordable water, due to Manila Water's innovative 'Lingap Eskwela' program. In a statement, Manila Water said through this program, students are assured of a continuous supply of clean and safe drinking water, making their schools more conducive to learning and free from water-borne diseases. The Department of Education also considers the Lingap Eskwela program as a partner in providing quality education through safe drinking water.

2 dead in ambush

PIKIT, North Cotabato—At least two people were killed—including a village official—while another was wounded when gunmen ambushed the convoy of provincial Board Member Farida Malingco here on Thursday afternoon. But police immediately ruled out politics behind the attack, saying Malingco, a reelectionist, was not the target of the suspects.

Rape suspect falls

BANSALAN, Davao del Sur—Police have finally arrested one of two suspects in the Nov. 17 rape-slaying of 16-year-old Melissa Belarmino. Chief Insp. Sherwin Butil, Bansalan police chief, identified the arrested suspect as Emmanuel Jack Piedraverde, 28. Piedraverde was arrested inside his house here on Wednesday. But Piedraverde's associate, Kim Son, remains at large. Witnesses have tagged the two suspects as the same person Melissa were talking to before she disappeared.

Eldie Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao

ATMs for rural banks

FOUR of the country's largest rural banks have recently agreed to join the new Encash Shared-ATM Consortium. These are the GM Bank, in Nueva Ecija; Bangko Kabayan, Batangas; 1st Valley Bank, Mindanao; Bank of Florida, Pampanga. These banks have a combined asset of P5 billion.

Dog meat eating talk of town in Cordillera cafés

TOTOO!
HINDE!!!

BAGUIO CITY—NINE OUT OF 10 Cordillera men are dog eaters. True or not, that statement of a Department of Agriculture official in the Cordillera hardly raised a howl among men here.

Film director Butch Perez was hardly surprised by the dog eater tag.

"That's because 99 percent of the Baguio boys are drinkers. It (dog meat) is the 'pulutan' par excellance," said Perez, whose movie, "Mumbaki," deals with Cordillera culture.

"My gut feel is that the statement is not true. I'm meeting more men who are not into dog meat," said Dean Wilfredo Alangui of the University of the Philippines Baguio.

"I agree because we have that (dog eating) as part of our culture," said Arthur Allad-iw, editor of the Baguio-based Northern Dispatch.

"I believe that nine out of 10 Baguio boys eat dogs. We even have an artist who owns a restaurant that serves dog meat and many of us eat there," said sculptor Kigao Rosimo.

"I don't agree because I don't eat meat," said playwright and copywriter Martin Masadao.

Doggone

"Baguio is increasingly becoming cosmopolitan so the culture of eating dogs is no longer prevalent," Antonio Villanueva, a call center agent, said.

Dog eating is a favorite topic in cafés here especially now that the implementing rules and regulations of the Animal Rights Act are about to be issued.

In the proposed rules, the killing and selling of animals other than cattle, poultry, pigs, goats and even rabbits, carabaos, horses, deer and crocodiles are not allowed.

The crux of the matter for Cordillerans is the proposed Section 6 of Republic Act 8485 on "the use of animals during rituals of an established religion or sect or by tribal or ethnic customs of indigenous cultural communities."

Pedro Baliang, a DA official, said dog eating is part of the region's culture and that 90 percent of Cordillera males eat dogs.

"Majority of the males here may be dog eaters but not 90 percent. Reports of rabies and scabies make dog eating dangerous," said taxi driver Rommel Laborte in Ilocano.

He said he has stopped eating dogs after witnessing how the dogs taken from Laguna and Batangas were slaughtered in a local restaurant.

He said rituals involving dog slaughter are no longer observed in Baguio.

"*Awanen ti* culture-culture (There is no culture involved)," he said.

Melchor Alipio, country director of the Network for Animals-Philippines, admitted that dog eating is hard to prevent in the Cordillera.

He said one of the things that they can do is to stop the trading of dogs from the lowlands.

But the so-called dog nappers are getting wiser.

In the past, they would just herd the dogs in a jeep which made them visible to network officials and police officers.

But now they use vans and the dogs are hidden in multi-level cages, Alipio said. "It has become harder to arrest them," he said.

"We are just wishing that the ones involved here do not bring in dogs with scabies and other skin diseases," he added. *Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

BEST DEALS

EUROPE & AFRICA
ATHENS • BERLIN • FRANKFURT • ISTANBUL
LONDON GATWICK • LONDON HEATHROW
MADRID • MANCHESTER • MILAN • MOSCOW
MUNICH • PARIS • ROME • VIENNA • ZURICH
ALGIERS • CAPE TOWN • CASABLANCA
JOHANNESBURG • NAIROBI • TRIPOLI • TUNIS
SEYCHELLES • KHARTOUM • DAR ES SALAAM
LAGOS
Fares to other European destinations also available.

ECONOMY CLASS — FROM USD 800 (NETT)
BUSINESS CLASS — FROM USD 1650 (NETT)

GCC
ABU DHABI • BAHRAIN • DUBAI
KUWAIT • MUSCAT
FROM USD 750 (NETT)
FROM USD 1350 (NETT)

KSA & LEVANT
ALEXANDRIA • AMMAN • BEIRUT
CAIRO • DAMASCUS • DAMMAM
JEDDAH • LUXOR • MASHAD • RIYADH
SANAA • TEHRAN
FROM USD 800 (NETT)
FROM USD 1350 (NETT)

RATES APPLY FOR TICKET SALES FROM
12 FEBRUARY – 28 FEBRUARY 2007 ONLY.
VALID FOR DEPARTURES FROM MANILA OR CEBU
FROM 01 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2007.

For further information, please contact your nearest
Qatar Airways office Manila (632) 8121888 / Cebu (032) 2321000
or your local travel agent.
All fares subject to change without prior notice.
Fare conditions apply.
To join Privilege Club, our Frequent Flyer programme,
visit www.qatarairways.com

QATAR AIRWAYS القطرية

Leftist solons demand: Prosecute Palparan, sack Gonzales, Esperon

By TJ Burgonio

MILITANT LAWMAKERS BELONGING to the party-list group Bayan Muna yesterday demanded not only the sacking of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon but also the prosecution of retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan for the unabated political killings.

Representatives Teodoro Casiño and Satur Ocampo also challenged President Macapagal-Arroyo to "act decisively" by issuing an official order to military commanders and their men not to carry out attacks on leftist activists.

They likewise called for the withdrawal of the government's counterinsurgency program, Oplan Bantay-Laya, and a stop to the harassment of progressive party-list groups.

"The ball is in the hands of Malacañang" after United Nations Special Rapporteur Philip Alston announced his initial findings and the Melo Commission submitted its report to Ms Arroyo, Casiño told reporters at a briefing in Quezon City.

"Malacañang has to act on the recommendations of both," he said, adding:

"Apart from sacking Esperon and National Security Adviser Gonzales, GMA (Ms Arroyo) should come out with a general order for all the Armed Forces men in uniform that they should not be part of, or at the least tolerate, any extrajudicial killing."

'Can't stay neutral'

At the same briefing, an emotional Ocampo said: "To stop the political killings, the government should sack Esperon and Norberto Gonzales, and focus on drawing up measures to avoid more political killings.

"At this point, President Macapagal-Arroyo can't just be silent. Either she sides with the killers or with the victims. She has no choice; she can't stay neutral."

Casiño proposed that Malacañang fire field commanders unable to stop the killings in their areas of operation.

"They say Palparan is past being held accountable because he's retired. But there are many colonels and generals in the field where human rights violations are happening. The government should act decisively on this if only to show the people and the international community that [it] is really serious about prosecuting [the perpetrators] and putting a stop to the killings."

Casiño said that despite his retirement, Palparan should be prosecuted, especially in view of the findings of the investigating commission headed by former Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo.

"The Melo Report was correct in pointing out that in the cases studied, it was really the military which was responsible for the extrajudicial killings. There's no other conclusion that you can draw. The Melo Commission merely confirms what we've been saying. And it vindicates our human rights groups and victims," Casiño said.

Alston plugged gaps

Casiño admitted that he and his colleagues were not satisfied with the Melo Report because it stopped at the level of Palparan and "absolved" the military brass as well as the President of accountability.

He said it was a good thing that Alston's report plugged the gaps: "Alston did not stop at saying that these were carried out by rogue elements. He concluded that the government's counterinsurgency program and moves to demonize the progressive groups had a lot to do with these."

This, Casiño said, was "the missing link" in the Melo Report.

"It absolves the President; it absolves the higher-ups. They made it look like it's all Palparan's fault. That is not the case," he said.

Casiño also called on the government to stop the counterinsurgency program, which Alston said should be reevaluated.

"[The program is] obviously defective. It provides for the environment where the killings are happening. It should be withdrawn immediately," he said of Oplan Bantay-Laya.

'President may be liable under int'l law'

From page A1

out the findings, to seek the truth and take decisive action to stop these killings.

"The President calls on the entire nation to show calm and resolve as we move into the volatile campaign season."

Bunye also said he was "disappointed" that the Melo Report itself was incomplete, "not for want of sincere efforts to get to the bottom of things, but mainly due to the lack of cooperation of a number of victims and their families."

Int'l responsibility

According to the Melo Report, an illegal act that violates human rights and is initially not directly imputable to a state—for example, because it is the act of private person or because the person responsible has not been identified—"can lead to international responsibility of the State, not because of the act itself, but because of the lack of due diligence to prevent the violation or to respond to it."

The report highlighted the crucial role to be played by the President in stopping the killings, which were largely blamed by the commission on the military, particularly retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, whom militants groups had dubbed the "Butcher" of Mindoro and Samar.

"If extrajudicial executions are to be stopped, the political will to do what is right however great the cost must pervade all levels of government so that our beloved country can move toward the greater ideals of democracy and justice; it must start with the President who must pursue the prevention and prosecution of extrajudicial killings with urgency and fervor," the report said.

PULIS
EPD
PULIS
EPD
PULIS
EPD
PULIS
EPD
PULIS
EPD

FLOWERS lie strewn on the street in front of antiriot policemen guarding the Edsa Shrine from militant demonstrators Friday.

JOAN BONDOC

It also urged her to reiterate "in the strongest possible manner" her condemnation of the killings and her "determination and firm resolve to stop the same."

"The President and all the departments of the government should make clear to all members of the police and military forces that extrajudicial executions will not be countenanced under any circumstances," it added.

But the commission also said it was not ignorant of the crimes committed by insurgents against soldiers: "Understandable, justified, and commendable, in fact, is the fervor with which the State, through the military, feels the need to avenge these heroes who perished in the defense of the country. However, this should not be at the cost of the freedom we are protecting in the first place."

No investigations

The Melo Commission also took to task both the military and police for their kid-glove treatment of Palparan.

The report quoted Philippine National Police Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr., head of Task Force Usig, as saying that Palparan had neither been summoned nor formally investigated by the panel formed last year to look into the political killings.

Razon said the task force could not explain the reason for the killings, and refused to attribute it to Ms Arroyo's declaration of an all-out war against communist insurgents.

But Razon said he would have preferred that Palparan explain why there was an apparent increase in the killings in areas where he was assigned.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon himself admitted that no formal investigation had been conducted because no formal complaints were filed, the report said.

Palparan, who served in the AFP for 33 years before his retirement last Sept. 11, was invited by the Melo Commission to shed light on the heightened number of killings of media workers and leftist activists in the areas where he was assigned.

These areas included Central Luzon (September 2005 to September 2006), Eastern Visayas (February 2005 to August 2006), and Mindoro (May 2001 to April 2003). *(Story on Page A19.)*

When asked by the commission how he earned the tag of "butcher," Palparan said it was part of the "propaganda war" of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army, according to the report.

'Shoot them'

The report said that in the course of his testimony before the commission, Palparan confirmed having made the following statements:

- "My order to my soldiers is that, if they are certain that there are armed rebels in the house or yard, shoot them. It will just be too bad if civilians are killed in the process. We are sorry if you are killed in the crossfire."
- "There would be some collateral damage, but it will be short and tolerable. The enemy would blow it up as a massive violation of human rights. But to me, it would just be necessary incidents."
- "Sorry *na lang kung may madamay na* civilian. The deaths of civilians and local officials were 'small sacrifices' brought about by the military's anti-insurgency campaign."

"They cannot be stopped completely. The killings, I would say are necessary incidents in a conflict because they (the rebels) are violent. It's not necessary that the military alone should be blamed."

From the tenor of Palparan's answers, "he entertained the possibility that some of his soldiers may have been responsible for the killings although they were not directed by their commander," the report said.

Palparan: We do not kill, only scare them

By Christine O. Avendaño

JOVITO PALPARAN THINKS the report of the Melo Commission and the initial findings of United Nations Special Rapporteur Philip Alston on the extrajudicial killings are flawed because both purportedly partook of the "propaganda" of the "enemy of the state."

Indeed, Palparan said yesterday, the outcome of the Melo and Alston investigations showed just how effective the propaganda of the Left was. "But I don't mind *kasi ganyan talaga ang labanan sa* (because that's how it really is in fighting the) insurgency—it's a propaganda war," he told reporters in a phone patch interview.

Both the Melo Commission and Alston's team held the military accountable for the killings. But the Melo Report named Palparan as the prime suspect in the murders.

This was why Palparan assailed the Melo Commission, saying its proof against him were the statements he had made in the media. (*See story on this page.*)

"But most of my statements were misinterpreted, taken out of context, or intentionally reinvented," he said.

He cited as example a statement he had made to civilians purportedly supporting the communist New People's Army in Nueva Ecija—that he had instructed soldiers to shoot NPA rebels in the house or yard if they were certain these people were there, and that it would be too bad if civilians were killed in the process.

Scare tactics

"I suspected that my words would reach the NPA in the nearby hinterlands, so it was psychological warfare. I intended the message to reach the rebels," Palparan said, adding:

"The message is that the people have now stopped supporting the NPA, and the NPA cannot force the people to shelter them.

"Now the Melo commission misconstrued that, saying that if I had said these things, then I had ordered those civilians killed. It's so shallow, isn't it?"

Palparan said what he had really intended was to scare the people whom the NPA was purportedly using against the military.

Asked why he had to resort to scare tactics on civilians, he said in Filipino: "Well, those people really have to be scared because of their wrong actions. That's why I said the state has the coercive power—because the bad people, you have to scare them before they do bad things.

"They're the ones planning to attack us, to kill us. They're being used by the NPA... So instead of killing them, just scare them so they don't support the NPA."

Palparan also said the commission's findings were not definite and mainly "tentative."

"They have not done their job, actually," he said. "We hope for these members of the commission to come out with definite findings so that people who are responsible must be held answerable and those who are not involved and implicated will be cleared."

'Shallow' probe

He added: "That's what we expect of the Melo Commission. *Eh hindi sila nagtrabaho, ako lang trinabaho nila* (They didn't do their work, but they worked on me).

As for Alston's initial findings, Palparan said he could not blame the UN official who had accepted the "shallow" reports of militant groups.

And even if the defense and military establishments had briefed Alston on the extrajudicial killings, Palparan said that it seemed the UN official had a "preconceived" conclusion in mind.

"In 10 days, you cannot have an in-depth or very sound conclusion. But immediately after 10 days, he had a conclusion, and that had no basis and was not made with an in-depth study and analysis of the situation," Palparan said.

He said that if the Melo Commission and the militant groups did not have facts with them, what more Alston who, he noted, was "also reechoing mostly the propaganda of the enemy?"

Commenting on Alston's claim that the military did not do enough in investigating the killings, Palparan said this was because there was little information for the military to work on.

He also said he was ready to face any investigation again.

AI warns RP: Act now before violence rules May elections

From page A1

said, a lack of accountability remained a critical challenge because despite the hundreds of killings "primarily of legal leftist activists" over the past six years, no one had been convicted.

Amnesty International said that in keeping with the Lenten season, all political parties and civil society groups should reflect on the lives lost and resolve to stop the killings.

"Those responsible for or complicit in the killings, particularly military elements identified by the Melo Commission and [Alston], must fully support the remedial measures implemented by the government and cooperate with investigators," it said.

Local human rights group Karapatan has blamed security forces for most of the more than 800 killed, including more than 300 leftist activists, since President Macapagal-Arroyo took power in 2001.

The President has announced a six-point action plan, including the establishment of special courts to speed along the trials of suspected perpetrators, to address the issue.

But Amnesty International noted that "one major obstacle" to stopping the political killings was "the lack of effective witness protection."

"Witnesses are afraid to come forward to report killings because of threats and intimidation. The government must ensure effective witness protection for all those involved in court proceedings, including victims and their relatives," it said.

Amnesty International has monitored and condemned extrajudicial killing, torture, discrimination, and other forms of human rights violations in the Philippines since Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship, or even before it set up an office in Manila in 1987. ***Reports from Volt Contreras, AP***

CGFNS to '06 nurses: Forget appeal, take test

From page A1

day on its website and attributed to its chief executive officer Barbara L. Nichols, gave emphasis to the requirements of US immigration law.

It was issued after nursing groups and the Philippine Regulatory Commission (PRC) formed a task force that would travel to the United States to appeal the commission's decision.

In the statement, Nichols said the CGFNS recognized that the June 2006 passers who had been sworn in as registered nurses were "validly licensed in the Philippines."

But it is US immigration law that requires the CGFNS to make "a determination as part of the VisaScreen process about several elements of the visa applicants' education, training, license, and experience—including their comparability to US nurses," she said.

"After reviewing the circumstances concerning the irregularities of the June 2006 nursing license exam, CGFNS concluded that the licensure process for [that exam] is not comparable to that required of US nurses, and that US immigration law therefore prohibits issuance of a VisaScreen certificate to individuals who passed this exam," she added.

Immigration process

Nichols further said: "The VisaScreen certification process is an immigration process—not a licensure process—that must be satisfied to obtain an occupational visa to work in the United States."

She said that the VisaScreen certification program was "a federally mandated immigration screening program for certain foreign health professionals" seeking employment in the United States, and that CGFNS was "designated by US immigration law to administer this program."

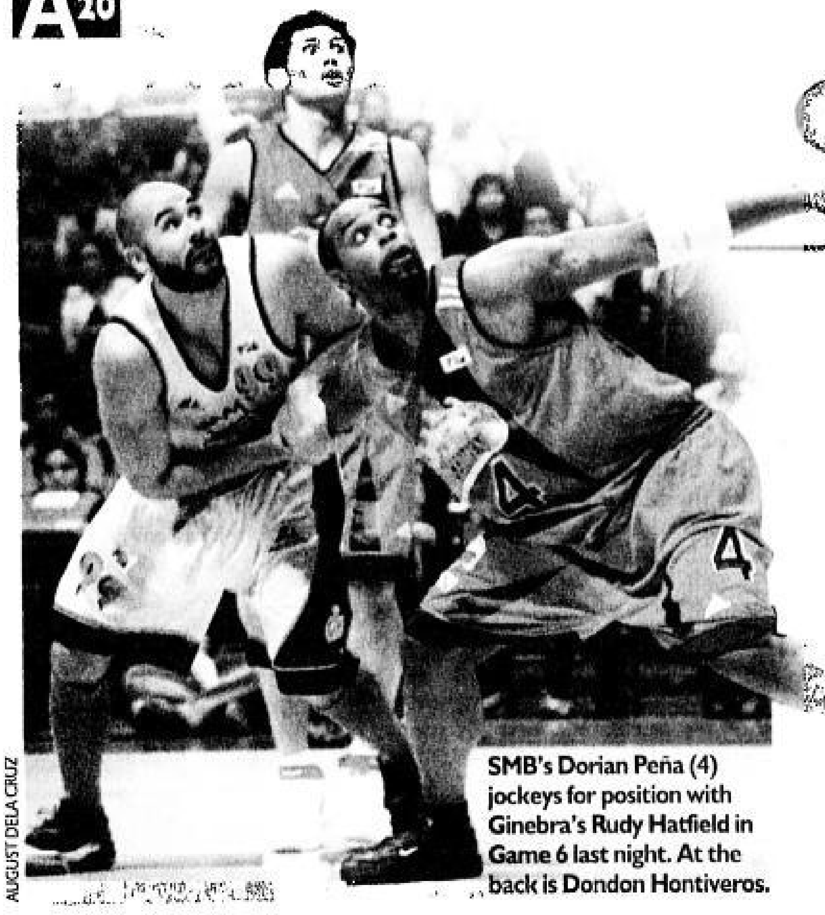
Nichols reiterated that the June 2006 passers could "overcome this bar" and qualify for a VisaScreen certificate by "taking the equivalent of Tests 3 and 5 on a future Philippine nursing exam."

Asked to comment, Pia Bersamin-Embuscado, counsel for the UST Faculty Association, told the INQUIRER in a text message that the CGFNS statement "should put all questions to rest.

She added: "June 2006 nurses have the option to retake Tests 3 and 5 if they want to go to the US. This is what we were worried about. Unfortunately, only the few people who stood by us saw this coming.

"We wanted what was best for our nurses. We hope that the PRC, the PNA (Philippine Nursing Association), and the June 2006 nurses will open their eyes and not waste precious time and money but be productive."

SPORTS



AUGUST DELA CRUZ

SMB's Dorian Peña (4) jockeys for position with Ginebra's Rudy Hatfield in Game 6 last night. At the back is Dondon Hontiveros.

Gin Kings close out Beermen for crown

GAMES SUNDAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
Fiesta Conference
4:05 p.m.—Welcoat vs Coca-Cola
6:35 p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull

By Musong R. Castillo

THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CHANGES IN the team's name over the years. And there are more players with foreign-sounding names this time.

But Barangay Ginebra's return to greatness was achieved using the old-fashioned formula—never say die.

The Gin Kings, despite groping for their best form, rallied from a 16-point deficit in the first half and outsteadied the San Miguel Beermen at the crunch for a 96-94 victory last night to clinch the Talk 'N Text Philippine Cup.

Jay-Jay Helterbrand knocked in two free throws with 2.9 seconds left and Olsen Racela's potential game-tying follow-up failed to beat the buzzer as the Kings wrote *finis* to what has been an interesting series, 4-2, before a virtual sea of humanity at the Araneta Coliseum.

Those free throws capped an 11-point fourth-quarter effort and a team-high 20 points for the 6-foot Helterbrand, whose brilliance late in the series earned him a first Finals MVP trophy.

The Beermen had a chance to tie, and even forge a deciding seventh game with a win, but Lordy Tugade's three-point attempt from deep left corner with less than a second to go was a tad short and Racela's putback off the glass was nullified.

It was sweet victory for the Kings, who actually won the last four games after giving away the first two via routs.

San Miguel Beer looked ready to drag the series into a rubber match, leading by as many as 16, 41-25, early in the second quarter as its gunners hit their shots from inside and out.

The Beermen, the league's winningest team who were gunning for their 18th title, were still in command with a 10-point lead, 75-65, time down to 10:09, after Danny Seigle drilled two free throws off Rafi Reavis.

But the Kings battled hard—as what has been their trademark—and got a lift from Sunday Salvacion who dropped some of the most crucial shots in the contest.

After playing behind Mark Caguioa the entire series, the former NCAA MVP Salvacion finished with 18 points, eight in the final frame, to be one of the game's heroes for Ginebra.

The Gin Kings thus won their seventh title in the league, an impressive collection considering the balance of forces in the PBA.

Salvacion forged the game's last tie at 94 on a long jumper off Tugade, who had actually given the Beermen a 94-92 lead with 45.4 remaining after a three-pointer from the right quarter court.

But Dondon Hontiveros missed a layup on the other end and Tugade muffed another triple attempt. Helterbrand chased down the loose ball and called a controversial timeout that enabled Jong Uichico to draw up the game-winning play.

Uichico, incidentally, also won his seventh championship, the first with the Gin Kings who got the full backing of a mammoth crowd during the entire series. Uichico's first six titles came, ironically, with San Miguel Beer.

The scores:

BARANGAY GINEBRA 96—Helterbrand 20, Salvacion 18, Caguioa 17, Tubid 12, Hatfield 11, Reavis 8, Mamaril 7, Abarrientos 3, Menk 0.

SAN MIGUEL BEER—Hontiveros 19, Seigle 16, Racela 14, Gonzales 10, Pena 10, Tugade 9, Ildefonso 8, Adducul 5, Tenorio 3, Wilson 0.

Quarters: 22-23, 34-46, 61-67, 96-94

Late Sports

More Sports stories on A27-A31

Asuncions eye Olympic spots

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE BADMINTON IS CLOSE TO taking another shot at the Olympics.

Siblings Kennie and Kennevic Asuncion drew closer to an outright Olympics berth after posting a world ranking of 11th in the mixed-doubles as of Feb. 22—the highest ever achieved by Filipino shuttlers.

According to the Badminton World Federation, the top 16 pairs in the rankings shortly before the Beijing Olympiad are assured of berths in the quadrennial competition.

However, Kennie refused to dwell on their recent feats and instead vowed to work harder to ensure an Olympic slot in badminton which was last filled up by Weena Lim 11 years ago.

"It's only the first quarter of the year and there's still more time to go," Kennie told the INQUIRER. "We have to make sure we maintain the ranking or even improve it."

Their father and coach, former national mentor Nelson Asuncion, said the cutoff for the Olympics slot is May next year.

"There is still a need to compete in at least 10 tournaments sanctioned by BWF and get good results from them," said Nelson.

"I'd love to be rewarded `coz true-blue, die-hard Globe ako!"
MOTOROLA
3G
Sure! Here's the latest 3G HSDPA phone for quick internet browsing and downloading...just because you've been with us.

FREE MOTORAZR V6 maxx

FOR EXISTING SUBSCRIBERS
• Currently outside their lock-up period
• On Plan 1800 or above
Subscribers on lower plans may opt to upgrade to Plan 1800 to enjoy this offer!

- 3G HSDPA-enabled Broadband Data Speed Phone for video calls and fast internet access of up to more than 1 MBPS using the Philippine's first and only super 3G-HSDPA network of Globe
- High Speed Connectivity via Bluetooth and USB 2.0 for quick file transfer
- 64 MB Internal Memory plus Expandable memory up to 1GB for file storage
- Touch Sensitive MP3 Controls on Flip for easy use
- Bluetooth Stereo
- 2 Megapixel Camera with Flash

HOW TO AVAIL:
1. To be eligible, Postpaid subscribers must be:
   a. Outside of any lock-up or contract with Globe Telecom
   b. On Plan 1800 or above
2. All promo availments will require a 2-year (24-month contract with Globe).
3. Interested subscribers may inquire about their eligibility by calling the Globe Service Hotline at 730-1000 or by visiting a Globe Business Center.
4. All approved MOTORAZR V6 maxx availments will be delivered to the subscriber within a 15-day period.
5. Globe Telecom reserves the right to decline promo availments for reasons such as but not limited to unpaid balances, previously terminated accounts, ongoing contracts or previously availed promos.
6. Corporate accounts are not eligible for this promo.

Call the Globe Customer Service Hotline at 730-1000 for more details.
Hurry! Availment period ends March 8, 2007.
For new subscribers, the MOTORAZR V6 maxx is free at Plan 2500, or at 0% interest for up to 24 months for lower plans. See price bulletin in participating Globe Business Centers for more details.

yes, ang lakas mo sa Globe

MOTOROLA
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0553, Series of 2007.
Globe 3G Mobile Broadband with HSDPA

Aplus METRO
Website: www.inquirer.net/metro
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Ex-Pasay vice mayor shows up with TRO

But no takeover takes place at City Hall; vows to return Monday

PANALIGAN

CALIXTO

PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS

By Julie M. Aurelio

HE CAME, HE SAW—AND HE went home.

Clutching a temporary restraining order on the dismissal against him, dismissed Pasay City Vice Mayor Antonino Calixto was yesterday prevented from assuming his former post at the City Hall on the orders of the incumbent mayor.

But instead of pushing it, the former vice mayor took a passive stance and said he would be back on Monday to lead the flag-raising ceremonies.

Calixto came knocking at the doors of the City Hall at around 4 p.m. yesterday only to be met by chief of police Chief Supt. Marietto Valerio, who said he was under orders not to allow Calixto inside the building. Calixto brought with him copies of the TRO issued by the Court of Appeals Tenth Division, which instructed the Office of the Ombudsman and Department of Interior and Local Government "to cease and desist from implementing the Jan. 12 decision" ordering Calixto's dismissal.

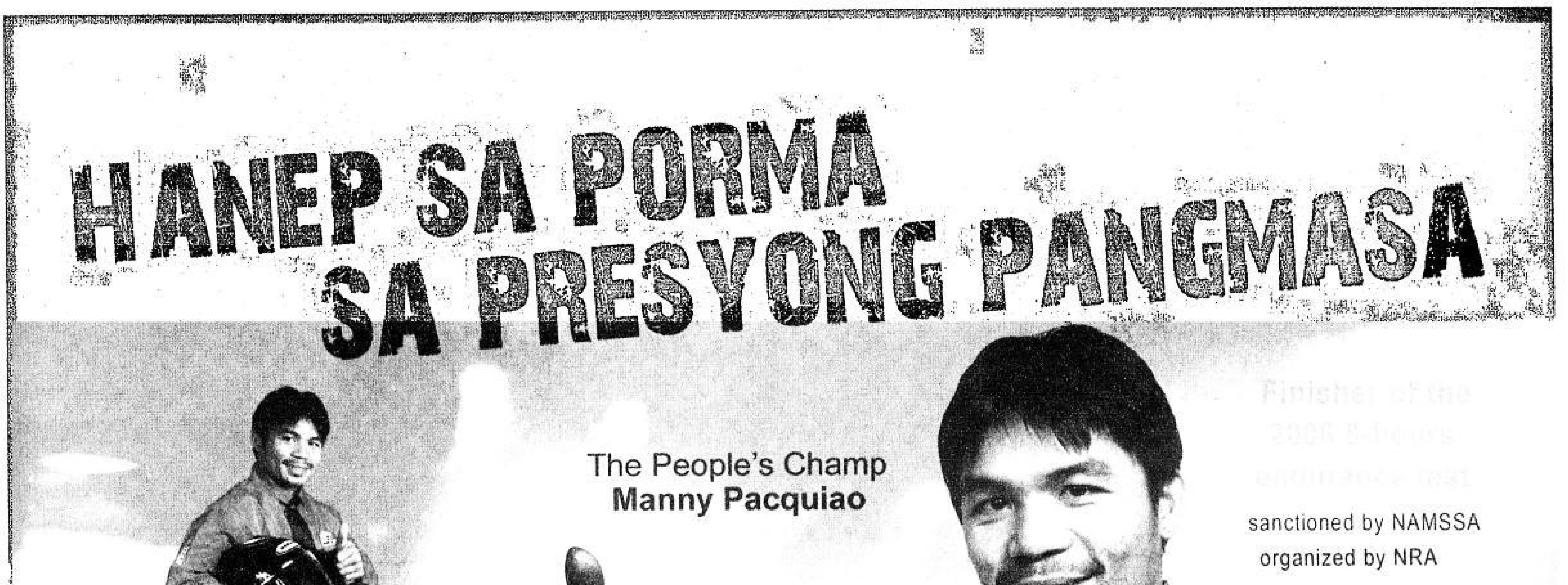
The former mayor said he was there to assume the post of acting mayor because of the TRO.

Calixto, along with dismissed Pasay City mayor Wenceslao Trinidad and 10 councilors, were placed under preventive suspension in September 2006 for an allegedly anomalous garbage collection and disposal contract worth more than P400 million.

The Ombudsman decision on Jan. 12 ordered Trinidad and Calixto's dismissal from office.

On Jan. 17, the former vice mayor filed a motion for reconsideration on his dismissal. The Court of Appeals issued the said

EX-PASAY/ A22


HANEP SA PORMA SA PRESYONG PANGMASA

The People's Champ
Manny Pacquiao

Finisher of the 2006 8-hours endurance test
sanctioned by NAMSSA
organized by NRA

MOTORSTAR MOTORCYCLES AND SCOOTERS
www.motorstar.com.ph

MOTORSTAR parts & service centers
MANILA - 317 A. Asistio 10th Ave. Caloocan City - Tel.(02) 323-5083
CEBU - M.L. Quezon Ave., Cabangcalan Mandaue City, Cebu - Tel. (032) 344-2982
DAVAO - Door #12 GGO Bldg. Dacudao Ave., cor. Vinzone St. Davao City - Tel. (082) 305-2599
BACOLOD - #59 Gonzaga St., Bacolod City - Tel. (034) 434-9331
CAGAYAN DE ORO - CUI Bldg., Corales Ave., Cagayan de Oro
ILOILO - A&A Bldg., 18 A. Quezon Street, Iloilo City - Tel. (033) 3358990

sun CELLULAR PREPAID

PINAKAMURANG*
24/7 CALL & TEXT UNLIMITED

₱25 ONLY
24/7 CALL & TEXT UNLIMITED
Valid for 1 day Sun-to-Sun calls & texts

Text All You Want.
Call All You Want.

Available Via
sun XPRESS load Electronic Reload

Pwedeng I-convert ang iyong ₱25 Regular Load to 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited 1 Day:
Via SMS: I-text lang ang CTU<space>1 at ipadala sa 247, o kaya via THE MALL: I-access ang The Mall sa SIM at sundin ang path na ito– The Mall>Mall Assistant>My Account>Prepaid>Buy CTU>CTU1
Note: Siguraduhing may P25 Regular Load ang iyong account para maka-convert to 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited 1 Day.
**Lowest single cash outlay*

Thank you very, very much, Mr. Alston

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) Chief Oscar Calderon said his agency would provide security to any individual who could give information and evidence against "jueteng" financiers and protectors.

If I were that individual, I would not trust Calderon with the information and evidence against financiers and protectors of the illegal numbers game.

I have given the PNP chief information in this column about a subordinate who allegedly received P200,000 daily from jueteng lords. I got the report from a Camp Crame insider.

Calderon hasn't ordered any investigation into the allegation.

The least Calderon could have done was to try to uncover the subordinate's identity, but he hasn't.

* * *

Michael Christian U. Kho, general manager of the government-owned Duty Free Philippines, was ordered suspended by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) effective Jan, 8, 2007.

The suspension was good for 90 days pending a formal investigation into an alleged $2.8 million "irregular" contract between DFP and an advertising agency.

Kho allegedly continues to hold office. Why?

* * *

Heard from the grapevine: National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Nestor Mantaring is about to be replaced by another NBI man who joined the bureau only recently.

The newcomer who would replace Mantaring is reportedly a Malacañang favorite.

The Palace is allegedly not satisfied with Mantaring's performance. Some insiders claim there are "irregularities" inside the premier law enforcement agency under Mantaring.

Mantaring replaced the late director of the bureau, Reynaldo Wycoco.

A very young and active Department of Justice special prosecutor was one of those considered as Wycoco's replacement. He is a son of a retired NBI official who did very well while he was in the service.

The prosecutor, who was recommended by former President Ramos, was eventually dropped from the short list because of his youth.

* * *

I went to the wake of Philippine Ambassador to Israel Antonio Modena, my former colleague at the defunct Times Journal in 1975-78.

The wake turned into a reunion of Modena's former colleagues in the journalism profession. They had very fond memories of Tony, some of them ribald anecdotes, which they shared with the audience during the necrological rites held Thursday.

From stories told about him, Modena was a journalist first and diplomat second.

He was known for championing the cause of overseas Filipino contract workers in Israel that displeased the host government.

I looked at the names of people and institutions that sent flowers: one of them was the Embassy of Israel. Another was former President Ramos.

But I didn't see any wreath from President Macapagal-Arroyo, which surprised me since Modena was an ambassador until the time of his death. However, I heard Ms Arroyo dropped by for a brief visit.

Modena's body will be cremated today.

* * *

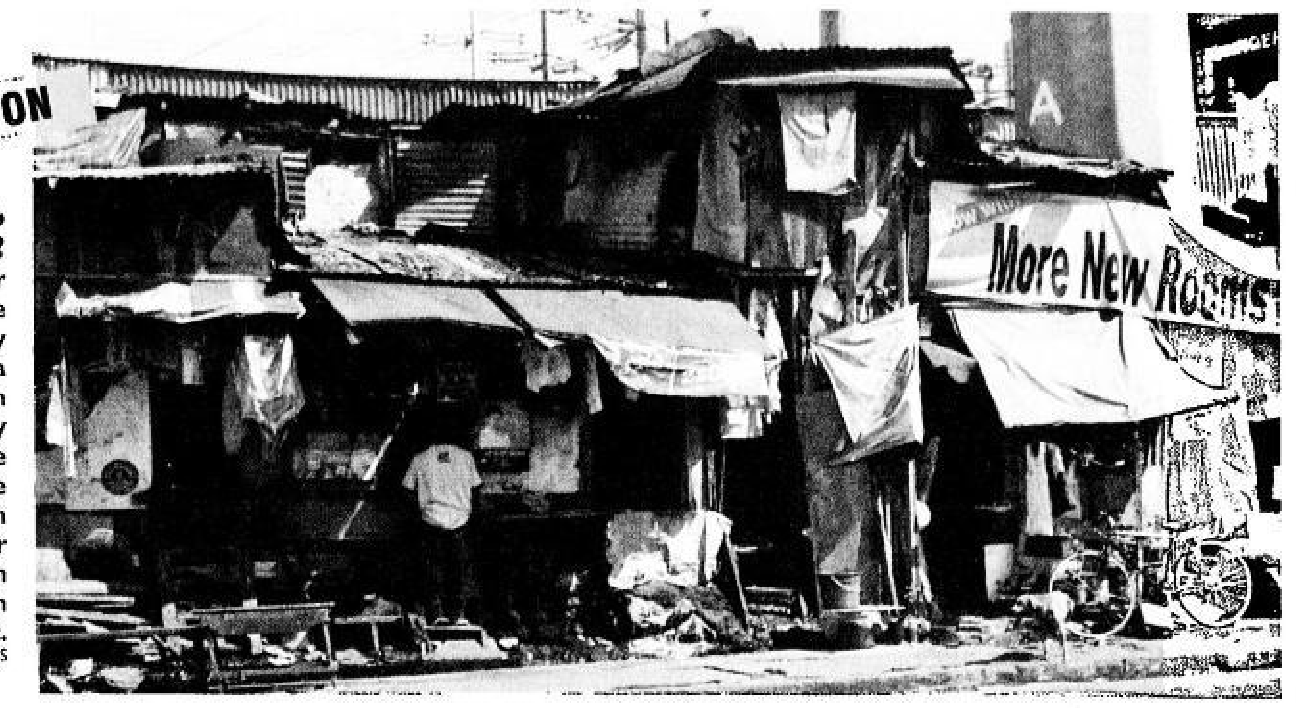
Leftists and journalists in the military's unofficial order of battle have United Nations Special Rapporteur Philip Alston to thank for getting a "reprieve."

An "order of battle" or OB is a list of persons considered as enemies of the state by the military.

Alston denounced some sectors in the military for the extrajudicial killings of leftists and journalists. Many of the victims were in the military OB.

Thank you very, very much, Mr. Alston!

SIGN ON



ROOMS, ANYONE? The streamer tacked on the wall of this shanty along Araneta Avenue in Quezon City appears to have been placed there as a shield from the sun rather than as an advertisement on rooms for rent.
MARICAR ABIS

Reconsider petition on judge hearing case, Leviste asks

By DJ Yap

FORMER BATANGAS GOVERNOR Jose Antonio Leviste has asked the court to reconsider its order junking his petition to have the Makati judge inhibit himself from handling the murder case against him.

Leviste is facing charges for the killing of his long-time aide, Rafael de las Alas.

The former governor said Judge Elmo Alameda of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150 should inhibit himself from hearing the case because Leviste had a "strong belief" that the judge was biased.

In his motion for reconsideration dated Feb. 21, Leviste said "there are circumstances attendant in the present case that led the accused to reasonably believe, or at least entertain the thought, that the Honorable Presiding Judge is no longer impartial."

Leviste said he was not trying to impugn Alameda's integrity or question the propriety of the judge's actions. He only wanted to express his lack of trust in Alameda's impartiality, he added.

Leviste cited a Supreme Court ruling (Bautista vs Rebueno) that said: "At the very first sign of lack of faith and trust to his actions, whether well grounded or not, the Judge has no other alternative but inhibit himself from the case."

In his original motion for inhibition, Leviste questioned the alleged haste with which Alameda issued a ruling upholding the prosecution's recommendation to upgrade the charges against him from homicide to murder.

In denying Leviste's motion, the judge said: "True, the court ruled immediately on the motion for reinvestigation but said ruling was not hastily issued. It was issued only after the court heard the arguments of both prosecution and defense."

On Jan. 12, Leviste surrendered to authorities and confessed he shot and killed De las Alas. He claimed he did it in self-defense. A hearing on Leviste's motion for reconsideration has been scheduled on March 2.

Beauty tilt contestant dropped from roster

By Emman Cena

A CANDIDATE WAS DROPPED from the roster of candidates of the Binibining Pilipinas beauty pageant a week before coronation night because she had not told pageant officials where she had worked before joining the tilt.

The Binibining Pilipinas Charities Inc. (BPCI) said Andrea Dimalanta, 22, was disqualified "for her nondisclosure of her former employment in an adult entertainment lounge," a violation of contest regulations. BPCI representatives who met Wednesday evening with the fourth runner-up in the 2006 Miss Mandaluyong contest reportedly told her she engaged in "indecent work" after a background check revealed that she was a waitress in a "sports bar."

Dimalanta said what the BPCI did "was foul. They have no legal basis to drop me from the list." Dimalanta told the INQUIRER that she did not go out with customers, was not a guest relations officer and had worked only as a waitress at Toyz 4 D Boyz Lounge and Café in Quezon City. In a statement, the BPCI said: "Her former occupation affects her qualification as a potential Philippine representative for the various international pageants."

DIMALANTA CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

METRO

Citizen's Call

Our City of Affections and Disaffections is made up of stories.
Your stories. Tell us all about it.

- Did a signage make your day?
- Garbage dumped on your street unmake your day?
- Street diggings forever on the street where you live?
- Are you up in arms against the demolition of an ancestral house?
- Awed by a little-known barangay project with a big positive impact in your community?
- Got stuck in potholes?
- Fed up with cussing and feuding neighbors?
- Is there an everyday role model in your neighborhood?
- Delightful/dreadful finds on your way to work?

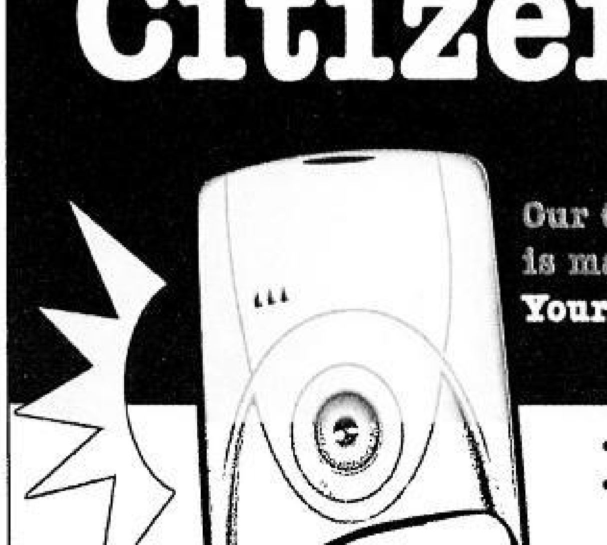
Tell, text us about it. With photos, if you will. Share the good news where you are—and the bad. Being involved is the only way to make Metro Manila a safer, saner, healthier and an exciting place to live in.

JUST TEXT SMS: ccall name/age/location <message>
MMS: <insert photo> ccall name/age/location <caption/message>

0918-8985566

P.S. Please don't send tips on criminal activities and scams. Call the police.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



'Opposition can march, but stay on the sidewalks, please'

By Allison W. Lopez

THEY CAN MARCH TO PLAZA MIRANDA as long as they stay on the sidewalks.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza denied talk that the Genuine Opposition (GO) would be dispersed by police, though city authorities wanted to "discourage" marching on Quezon Boulevard for the group's proclamation rally today.

"*Hindi mangyayari yun* (dispersal). They can march but they must not block traffic. If they insist (on marching), I hope they will be responsible enough to use the sidewalks or one lane (of the road), and cause minimal damage," Atienza said.

Though the rally permit granted by City Hall said marching or holding of motorcades to and from the venue was not allowed, Atienza clarified that the activity would be permitted as long as it did not clog streets.

"Plaza Miranda is the center of Manila. *Kung magtitipon lang sila doon, eh di* perfect. I hope they are responsible enough to see to it that traffic flows," he said.

Ferdie Ramos, GO's campaign operations manager, said earlier they planned to converge at Plaza Miranda from three assembly points—Liwasang Bonifacio, Avenida Rizal and University of Santo Tomas.

Atienza advised motorists to avoid downtown Manila, especially Quezon Boulevard, starting 8 a.m. tomorrow. About two of the boulevard's four lanes are expected to be used in the proclamation rally that can last until midnight. Though the Manila Police District's traffic enforcement group is preparing a rerouting plan, it said the affected roads would not be closed.

Meanwhile, Atienza underscored yesterday the significance of Plaza Miranda as a Freedom Park.

The mayor said Plaza Miranda's reputation as a venue for free speech made the Genuine Opposition choose it for their proclamation rally. "But rightfully, they chose Plaza Miranda because it represented freedom to ask anything," he said.

The mayor who was the inaugural speaker of the Quijano de Manila symposium at Cherry Blossoms Hotel on Jorge Bocobo Street, said Plaza Miranda was the place where everybody could question anything. "That's why when (we) made decisions, we were given the advice, 'Can you defend it in

'OPPOSITION'/ A23

Ex-Pasay vice mayor . . .

From page A21

TRO on Feb. 22 after Calixto posted a P200,000 bond.

"Actually I already gave a memorandum to the department heads and to the honorable Mayor Panaligan. I am thankful to police chief Valerio that he came out and talked with me peacefully today," Calixto told reporters.

The doors of the City Hall were locked upon the former vice mayor's arrival, and members of the Pasay civil disturbance management unit stood guard with their truncheons and shields to prevent anyone from coming in.

Expecting a large crowd, Mayor Allan Panaligan said he had coordinated with the chief of police and Southern Police District Director General Roberto Rosales to maintain peace and order. Members of the Pasay civil disturbance management unit stood guard in front of the City Hall, where metal barricades were set up to contain the expected crowd.

But the mob never came. Calixto's supporters, numbering less than a hundred, had gathered at the waiting shed in front of the building early in the afternoon.

"Without the proper implementation by the Department of Interior and Local Government of Mr. Calixto's assumption as the mayor, he cannot legally claim the office. This is the legal process. The implementation by the DILG is indispensable," Panaligan said. He added that his installation as mayor was not in an acting capacity because of Trinidad's dismissal.

Meanwhile, DILG Undersecretary Wencelito Andanar said Calixto has "no legal authority" to assume the post of city mayor because the position is not vacant.

"The TRO states a status quo, which means Calixto as vice mayor, if at all. And even that is only temporary," Andanar said. He said Panaligan became the "permanent mayor" after taking his oath of office. Andanar also noted that Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno still has to sign an implementing directive for Calixto's return as vice mayor. *With Fe Zamora*

Regional trial court orders closure of casino in Binangonan

MUTYA NG NAVOTAS 2007
Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco (right) and Vice Mayor PJ Javier (left) with the newly crowned Mutya ng Navotas 2007, Diane Jane Nicolas of Barangay San Roque (center), Abegail Hilario (4th runner-up), Katherine Imson (3rd runner-up), Michelle Genesa (1st runner-up) and Joey Ann Bonifacio (2nd runner-up).

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

ARMED WITH A COURT ORDER, the Binangonan municipal government yesterday closed down a 2-year-old casino inside a posh resort in Barangay San Isidro.

The local government had earlier filed charges against the casino operator for operating without permits from the Municipal Hall and not paying local taxes, in an apparent response to calls for a shutdown from Church leaders and other groups in the province

In an order on Thursday, a copy of which was given to the INQUIRER by Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares, the Binangonan RTC Branch 67 granted a request of the local government for a cease-and-desist order to stop the owners and employees from continuing to operate the facility.

Ynares said his brother, Binangonan Mayor Cesar Ynares, personally went to the resort yesterday afternoon as the court sheriff served the order.

"We find that the plaintiff's continued operation of its casino sans the permits and the non-payment of taxes will work irreparable damage to the plaintiff unless urgently restrained," the court said in its order.

The casino operators consistently said it was exempted from local permits and fees, saying it was located within an economic zone in the town.

But in a statement, the town mayor said they had verified with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority that only the resort and the hotel "and not the casino" were exempted from local fees and permits.

The preliminary investigation of the case against the casino operators has been rescheduled to March 2. The temporary restraining order against casino operations would be enforced within 20 days.

The casino has not only become the main attraction of the East Bay Resort built in the remote town about two years ago, but it has also became the subject of a stiff opposition by leaders of the Diocese of Antipolo.

The governor was quick to brush off insinuations that the move against the casino was politically motivated, considering the stand of Church leaders on the issue.

Ynares, a reelectionist, is running unopposed for in the coming polls, while his brother Cesar is winding up his third term as town mayor.

Running in Cesar's place is their youngest brother Cecilio, the governor added.

'Opposition . . .

From page A22

Plaza Miranda?'" he said.

Yesterday's symposium was the first in a series of monthly "brunch" forums as a "vehicle for the exchange of ideas and ventilation of vital issues."

It was organized by the Quijano de Manila Foundation Inc. (QMFI) established last month by a group of journalists in honor of the late National Artist for Literature Nick Joaquin. Quijano de Manila was the name Joaquin used as a journalist.

Atienza recalled the bombing of the Liberal Party proclamation rally at Plaza Miranda on Aug. 21, 1971. Then running for city councilor, Atienza could not believe he escaped unscathed while many were injured.

A graduate of architecture at the University of Santo Tomas, Atienza said he did not expect to be mayor of Manila.

"A lot of people discouraged me from entering politics because it was 'only for the rich' and that you can't win if you had no money," he said.

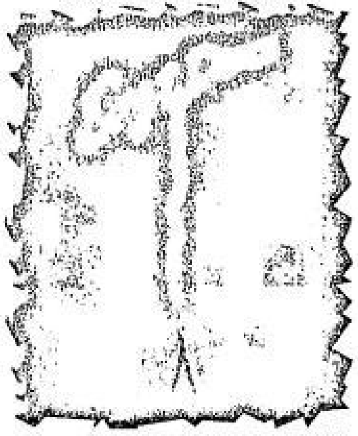
He said ideals were not enough to win an election. "*Akala ko mananalo ako sa ideals. Meron ding kailangan gampanan, tulad ng pagbabantay ng boto mo.* Being popular was not enough, and being idealistic may be the best motivation but you still have to guard your votes," he said.

In the coming May elections, he said young, bright, committed Filipinos had to get into politics lest the "tested-and failed" ones succeeded. The three-term mayor of the country's capital said "hope is in politics."

The QMFI is led by Ambassador Antonio Cabangon Chua, who owns Philippine Graphic magazine and other media outfits.

Apart from the monthly forum, the QMFI will hold lectures and annual awards for journalists, and tie up with journalism schools for scholarships.

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES
and the City of Makati
in cooperation with
present
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S



TELL ME ON A SUNDAY LYRICS BY DON BLACK
VARIATIONS

with Carla Guevara-Laforteza and Powerdance
featuring Inday Echevarria and the RSVP String Ensemble

Direction by Joy Virata
Choreography by Douglas Nierras

February 9 - March 4, 2007

Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00pm
with Saturday & Sunday matinees at 3:30pm

Onstage, 2nd Floor, Greenbelt 1
Paseo de Roxas cor. Legaspi st., Makati City

For details and inquiries
call 8870710 or 8919999

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S SONG & DANCE is presented through special arrangement with R & H Theatricals 1065 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 2400 New York, NY 10018 and the Really Useful Group Ltd. www.rnhtheatricals.com
TM 1982 The Really Useful Group Limited

Give something true,
Get something cool!

Subscribe to the Inquirer and receive cool gifts like this all-weather jacket!*

☐ Subscription 1 (360 issues)
at P6,480, PLUS these FREE items worth P4,696!
• 22 bonus issues • Hinge Inquirer Magazines
• Inquirer Magazine Supplements
PLUS an Inquirer Jacket

☐ Subscription 2 (180 issues)
at P3,240, PLUS these FREE items worth P2,130!
• 10 bonus issues • Hinge Inquirer Magazines
• Inquirer Magazine Supplements
PLUS an Inquirer Coffee Mug

☐ Subscription 3 (90 issues)
at P1,620 PLUS these FREE items worth P1,072!
• 4 bonus issues • Hinge Inquirer Magazines
• Inquirer Magazine Supplements
PLUS an Inquirer Handy Bag

FREE delivery!

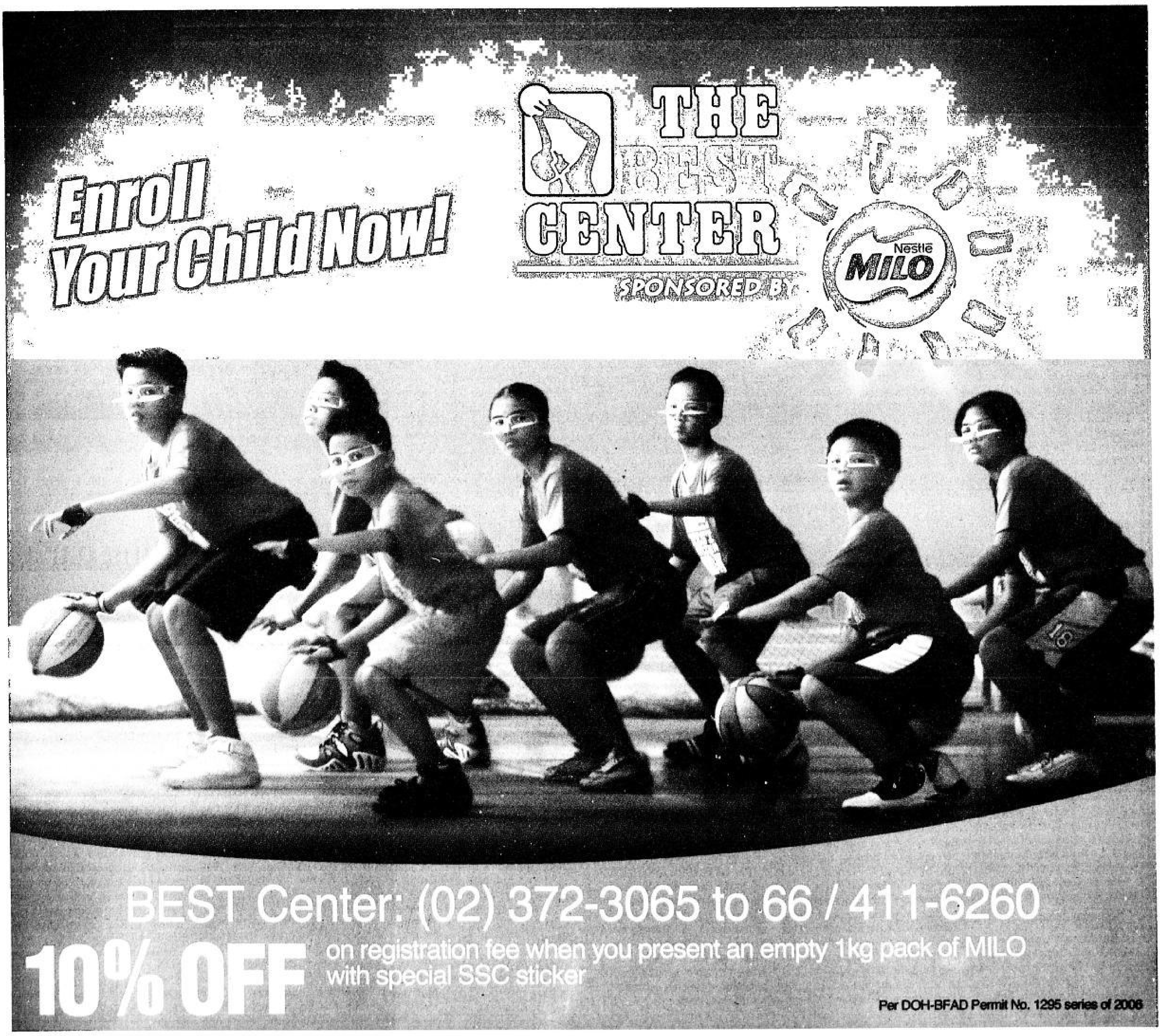
*Promo open to new subscribers residing in Metro Manila only.

Cash, Cheque, Master Card, or Visa payments accepted.
Go ahead, take a stand. Call now.

Philippine Daily Inquirer delivers.

Promo Period is from December 18, 2006 to February 28, 2007.
See flyers for full details. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 5525, Series of 2006.

Call 896-6000 to subscribe

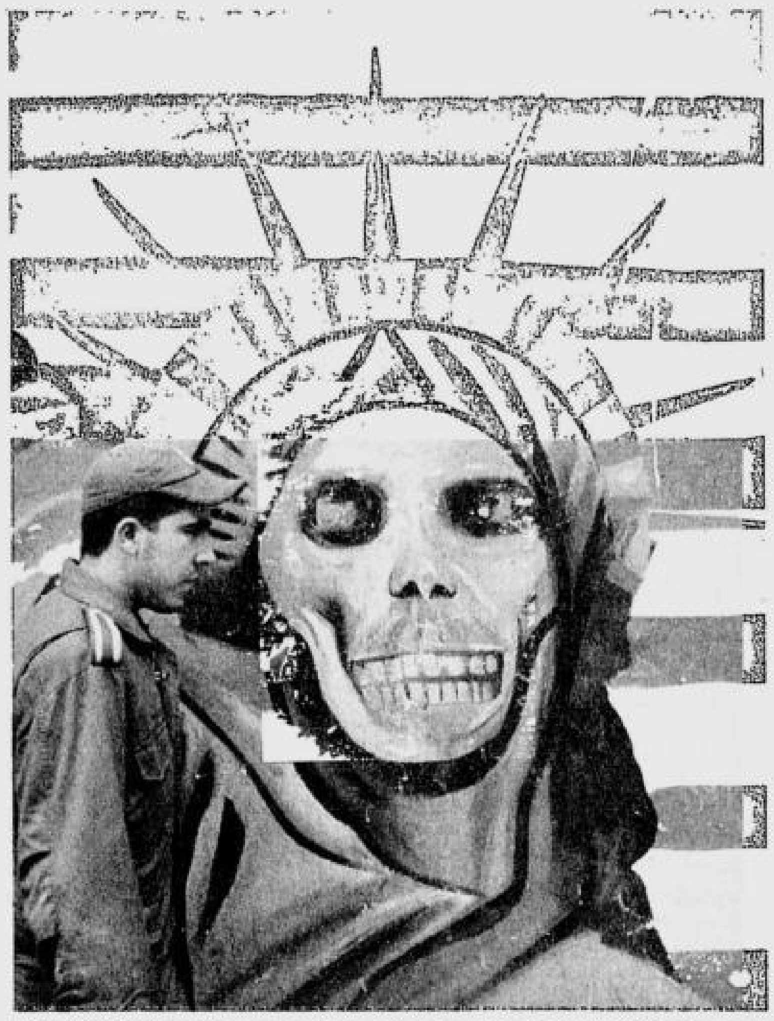


BEST Center: (02) 372-3065 to 66 / 411-6260

10% OFF on registration fee when you present an empty 1kg pack of MILO with special SSC sticker

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1295 series of 2006

British officials fear Bush will attack Iran



AN IRANIAN policeman walks past a mural on the wall of the former US embassy in Tehran Feb. 21. REUTERS

LONDON—SENIOR BRITISH government officials fear that US President George W. Bush will attack Iran before his final term in office ends in a little less than two years time, The Times reported on Friday.

They fear that Bush will seek to "settle the Iranian question through military means," the daily reported, quoting unidentified senior British government sources.

"He (Bush) will not want to leave it unresolved for his successor," one of the sources told The Times.

According to The Guardian daily, meanwhile, much of the intelligence provided by American agencies about Iran's nuclear facilities to UN inspectors has turned out to be unfounded.

Citing unnamed diplomatic sources in Vienna, the base for the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), most of the tip-offs about supposedly secret weapons sites have led to dead ends.

"Most of it has turned out to be incorrect," an unidentified diplomat at the IAEA with detailed knowledge of the agency's investigations told The Guardian.

"They gave us a paper with a list of sites. (The inspectors) did some follow-up, they went to some military sites, but there was no sign of (banned nuclear) activities." "Now (the inspectors) don't go in blindly. Only if it passes a credibility test." The reports follow comments made on Thursday by British Prime Minister Tony Blair who insisted there is "no planning" under way for an attack on Iran, and added that he knew of "nobody" in Washington who was planning an invasion either.

"You can't absolutely predict every set of circumstances that comes about but sitting here now talking to you, I can tell you Iran is not Iraq," Blair told BBC Radio.

"There is, as far as I know, no planning going on to make an attack on Iran and people are pursuing a diplomatic and political solution for a good reason—that it is the only solution that anyone can think of as viable and sensible." Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett also said on Thursday that Britain remained committed to a negotiated solution and would now consult with its international partners to find a way to prevent Iran from acquiring the means to develop nuclear weapons.

Iran has failed to comply with a United Nations Security Council demand to halt uranium enrichment, according to a report issued by Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the IAEA.

AFP

Iran's nuke defiance risks new sanctions

VIENNA—IRAN HAS FAILED TO comply with a UN Security Council demand to halt uranium enrichment, the UN nuclear watchdog said Thursday, prompting calls around the world for new sanctions.

The United States, which accuses Iran of seeking nuclear weapons, said international powers want to haul Iran back before the Security Council.

France called for a new sanctions resolution while fellow Security Council permanent member Britain called for "further Security Council measures, which will lead to the further isolation of Iran internationally." But Tehran insisted that it would not halt its nuclear work.

"Iran has not suspended its enrichment related activities," the International Atomic Energy Agency said in a report for the IAEA's 35-nation board of governors and the Security Council.

The Security Council passed a resolution on Dec. 23 imposing limited sanctions on Iran and demanding it freeze enrichment, which makes fuel for civilian reactors but can also produce atom bomb material.

The council gave IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei 60 days to report on whether Iran had complied. The IAEA board is to meet on March 6.

ElBaradei's report said Iran had failed to cooperate on crucial issues that raise the possibility of a military dimension to Iran's work. Iran has failed to hand over a 15-page document outlining the plan for making the core of nuclear bombs.

A senior UN official said the lack of "progress in the outstanding issues is the most important thing in this report." The IAEA also demanded that Iran allow monitoring cameras at a huge, heavily bunkered underground enrichment site in Natanz, in central Iran.

The United States and its allies are now expected to urge new UN Security Council action against Iran.

"We are disappointed that Iran has not complied with (UN) resolution 1737," said White House national security spokesperson Gordon Johndroe.

AFP

Malaysia says it won't restrict foreign workers

KUALA LUMPUR—MALAYSIA will not restrict freedom of movement for foreign workers, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was quoted as saying Friday.

Abdullah said a controversial bill governing the country's 2.6 million foreign workers needed careful study, the New Straits Times reported.

"If it is going to be beneficial to all parties, including the workers, then there is nothing wrong in implementing it," Abdullah told Malaysian journalists during a visit to Jakarta, the newspaper said.

"But if the intention is to lock them up, it will not be acceptable," he said.

Abdullah's comments came as opposition mounted to proposals to control the movements of foreign workers, mostly construction laborers and plantation workers, to curb a rising crime rate.

Home Affairs Minister Mohamad Radzi Sheikh Ahmad said Sunday Malaysia would soon introduce a bill proposing that employers "provide proper accommodations at the workplace, where it is properly monitored, where they have systems to ensure that the workers do not go astray." He said the bill, which could be approved by cabinet next month, would recommend that workers register with their employers if they wished to go out during breaks or days off.

Malaysia's police chief had earlier reportedly suggested confining foreigners to their work premises and putting them under 24-hour surveillance to prevent crime.

Rights groups condemned the proposals and the Star newspaper quoted Abdullah as saying workers' basic rights should not be violated.

"If the employers can provide living quarters that are close to their projects and regulate their movement in and out of those areas, then I do not see why this cannot be done," Abdullah said.

"However, there should not be any interference by the police in regulating the workers' movements as that will go against their basic rights." Police chief Musa Hassan has said crimes committed by overseas workers escalated to about 5,000 cases last year—about two percent of 232,620 cases recorded.

Official statistics have shown that criminal incidents overall jumped 45.1 percent in the three years since 2003.

AFP

ASTYNOMIA
POLICE

TURMOIL IN GREEK UNIVERSITIES

Greek police fight with demonstrators during a student protest in Athens Feb. 22. Greek university students have been protesting for seven weeks against a government plan to tighten the academic and fiscal management of public universities in a bid to raise standards and stem the loss of Greek graduates abroad. AFP

Cardinal orders Australian priests: Keep funeral Masses short

CANBERRA—KEEP IT SHORT, and don't mention sex or drunkenness—those are the new rules for eulogies at funeral Masses in Australia's Catholic church.

An increase in the number of inappropriate comments at funeral masses has prompted Australia's most senior Catholic, Cardinal George Pell, to impose a five-minute deadline on eulogies and deem some areas of a person's life off limits.

The move is designed to cut back on the number of long-winded eulogies by friends or family members at funeral masses, and to ensure the funeral mass keeps its main focus as an act of worship to God and a place for prayers for the deceased.

"On not a few occasions, inappropriate remarks glossing over the deceased's proclivities (drinking prowess, romantic conquests etc.) or about the Church (attacking its moral teachings) have been made at funeral masses," Pell's new guidelines say.

He said the comments often embarrassed the priest, the family and the congregation and become the focus of the service.

The Catholic church in Ireland and most of the United States ban lay people from giving eulogies at funeral masses, but the church in Australia allows for a few short words of remembrance from a family member or friend near the end of a funeral mass.

However, Pell's guidelines, obtained by Reuters on Friday, make it clear the eulogy must never replace the officiating priest's homily, or sermon, which should focus on God's compassion and the mystery of the resurrection of Jesus.

The "words of remembrance" should last no more than three to five minutes, or one typed page, and should focus on a person's human qualities and faith," the guidelines say.

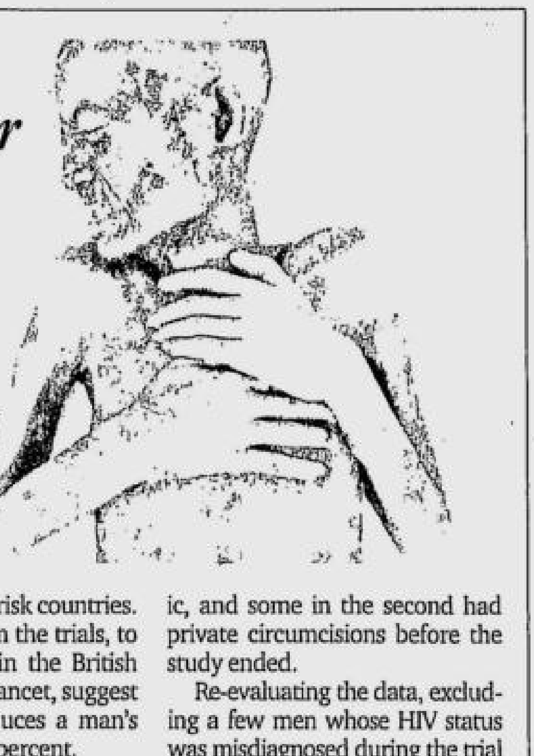
"The reflection should be prepared beforehand, and ideally be reviewed with the priest or presiding minister beforehand, to avoid undue length or embarrassing situations," the guidelines say.

The new guidelines say anecdotes, poems or songs, might be better kept for services at the cemetery or crematorium, or for a vigil prayer service the night before a funeral.

The Catholic church is Australia's biggest, with about five million followers, followed closely by the Anglican church with just over four million.

Reuters

Circumcision's anti-AIDS effect greater than first thought



THAWON, 60, grimaces in pain at a hospice for HIV-AIDS patients in Thailand Feb. 17. REUTERS

CIRCUMCISION MAY PROVIDE even more protection against AIDS than was realized when two clinical trials in Africa were stopped two months ago because the results were so clear, according to studies being published Friday.

The trials, in Kenya and Uganda, were stopped early by the National Institutes of Health, which was paying for them, because it was apparent that circumcision reduced a man's risk of contracting AIDS from heterosexual sex by about half. It would have been unethical to continue without offering circumcision to all 8,000 men in the trials, federal health officials said.

That decision, announced on Dec. 13, made headlines around the world and led the two largest funds for fighting AIDS to say they would consider paying for circumcisions in high-risk countries. But the final data from the trials, to be published Friday in the British medical journal The Lancet, suggest that circumcision reduces a man's risk by as much as 65 percent.

The December announcement described only the follow-up on the men as originally divided into two groups: those who agreed to be circumcised and those who agreed not to be. But some in the first group never went to the circumcision clinic, and some in the second had private circumcisions before the study ended.

Re-evaluating the data, excluding a few men whose HIV status was misdiagnosed during the trial and combining the results of three trials—those in Uganda and Kenya as well as one in South Africa that was stopped in 2005 when the protective effect became apparent—produces a protection rate of about 65 percent.

NYT

Roh decides to leave his ruling party

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREA'S OPPOSITION on Friday dismissed President Roh Moo-Hyun's decision to leave his ruling Uri Party as a "political circus." Analysts said Roh's decision announced late Thursday would ease Uri's efforts to merge with allies and create a new entity ahead of the December presidential election.

Critics had said his personal unpopularity was undermining support for the ruling party.

But there were fears the move would confirm Roh's "lame duck" status in his final year in office, amid a variety of challenges such as the economic slowdown and North Korea's nuclear program.

Roh announced his plan during a dinner with leaders of Uri, which has an approval rating of little more than 10 percent compared to some 50 percent for the conservative Grand National Party (GNP).

ROH (right) with Prime Minister Han Myeong-Sook Feb. 22. AFP

"I have long hesitated about leaving the Uri Party amid the heated debate about it within the party. I finally decided to leave in order to help eliminate intra-party conflict," he was quoted by his spokesperson as saying.

Prime Minister Han Myeong-Sook offered to resign at the same dinner. South Korea's first female prime minister reportedly intends to run for president and is set to represent Uri and its allies.

Roh has repeatedly said he might quit Uri, to push through constitutional reforms as a political neutral and allow it to rebuild support ahead of the presidential poll.

Roh wants to shift from the current five-year, single-term presidency to a four-year, two-term system to promote political stability and policy consistency, even though he himself cannot benefit.

His action sparked GNP condemnation.

"This is nothing more than a political circus aimed at benefiting the ruling party struggling with low popularity," a spokesperson said. "The president should either withdraw the desertion or form a new, politically neutural cabinet." Roh became the fourth incumbent president to break with the ruling party after his predecessors Roh Tae-Woo, Kim Young-Sam and Kim Dae-Jung.

"President Roh is so unpopular that his membership was considered a burden on the party," said political science professor Kim Seong-Ho of Kyunghee University.

AFP

Deal reached to bury Nicole Smith in Bahamas

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.—FORMER Playboy centerfold Anna Nicole Smith will be buried in the Bahamas next to her dead son after an agreement was reached to end a two-week legal feud over her corpse, lawyers said on Thursday. *(See related story on Saturday Special Page D1)*

Choking back tears, Broward Circuit Judge Larry Seidlin had earlier placed Smith's body—rapidly decomposing after her unexplained death at age 39 in a Florida hotel casino on Feb. 8—into the custody of a court-appointed guardian of her 5-month-old baby daughter Dannielynn Hope Marshall Stern.

"I'm very grateful that Anna Nicole's wishes are going to be carried out," said Smith's long-time lawyer and companion, Howard K. Stern, who wanted to have her buried next to her son Daniel in the Bahamas, where he died five months ago.

Speaking to reporters outside the Fort Lauderdale courthouse where Stern, Smith's former boyfriend Larry Birkhead and Smith's mother, Virgie Arthur, have spent six days fighting over the corpse, lawyers for the factions said they could not give any details about the funeral but hoped it would be private.

The decision appeared to mean the legal tussle over Smith—famous in life for her bountiful bust—was all but over even though Arthur's attorney indicated she might yet appeal.

Broward County Medical Examiner Joshua Perper said an appeal could delay release of the body.

The sudden death of the former topless dancer and billionaire's widow and the legal battle over her body have brought swarms of television crews and tabloid journalists to the Broward County courthouse in Fort Lauderdale.

Relishing the limelight, Seidlin presided over the proceedings as if they were an audition for a TV show, berating shouting lawyers, taking over their questioning of witnesses and firing off jokes and off-the-cuff remarks.

But the saga is about more than just 15 minutes of fame or the location of a tombstone—Smith's estate could be worth a fortune one day if a decade-long court battle to inherit the wealth of her late husband, Texas oil tycoon J. Howard Marshall, prevails.

And so much of the focus has been on who fathered Dannielynn—her legal next of kin.

Birkhead says he is her father and has launched a paternity suit in California, while Stern is listed on Dannielynn's birth certificate as the child's father.

A hearing was scheduled for a Fort Lauderdale family court on Friday, just down the hall from Seidlin's courtroom, where lawyers for Birkhead said they would demand DNA tests on Dannielynn.

Seidlin spent the last day of his hearings asking questions about those vying for the remains: did Smith's mother, Arthur, provide strong support for her daughter?; was Stern "an enabler" who aided and abetted her prescription drug problem?

"Good guy, bad guy, hero, villain?" Seidlin mused, speculating about Smith's abuse of prescription drugs and wondering whether she would have been better able to handle fame if she had had a stronger support network.

"This beautiful woman gets thrown into the spotlight. But unfortunately ... she's not prepared for this hurricane." *Reuters*

SMITH in 2004. REUTERS

PHOTO dated May 20, 2006 shows rebels from the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) in Tina, a small village located 70 km west of al-Fasher, capital of Northern Darfur. AFP

4 years on, world still cannot end Darfur disaster

KHARTOUM—FOUR YEARS AFTER THE conflict in Darfur erupted, violence and hunger continue to ravage the western Sudanese region as the international community fails to impose its will on Khartoum.

"Four years is far too much ... The fact that this goes on is a disgrace," said UN peace envoy Jan Eliasson during a recent visit to Khartoum with his African Union (AU) counterpart, Salim Ahmed Salim.

The human cost of what some observers describe as the first genocide of the 21st century has been huge. At least 200,000 people have been killed, more than two million displaced and violence has spread to neighboring countries.

The United Nations and other aid agencies are running the world's largest relief operation in Darfur, with a budget of $1 billion and around 130,000 workers operating in an increasingly dangerous environment.

Most experts say the war officially started on Feb. 26, 2003 when rebels attacked a garrison in North Darfur. Government forces backed by Janjaweed militia responded with a fierce scorched-earth campaign.

Violence has never ebbed since. An ill-equipped, cash-strapped contingent of AU observers has failed to make an impact in more than two years and a peace deal signed last May in Abuja has never really been implemented.

At a November meeting in Addis Ababa, the United Nations decided to work with the AU on two main points: reviving the political process and clinching Khartoum's okay for a UN peacekeeping deployment.

Washington has described the Khartoum-engineered repression in Darfur as genocide and threatened sanctions, Hollywood stars such as George Clooney got involved and an international divestment campaign is gaining momentum.

The International Criminal Court is also expected to further turn up the heat on President Omar al-Beshir's regime next week by issuing arrest warrants against some of its senior members for crimes against humanity.

But Beshir, who seized power in a 1989 coup, has consistently resisted pressure, and has warned the world that Darfur would become a graveyard for all Western troops who ventured there.

At the French-African summit in Cannes earlier this month, he gave no indication he would comply with international demands and support a UN troop presence to support the embattled African contingent.

"It is clear that the African Union troops have the peacekeeping role," he said. "The United Nations is there to provide logistical, financial and technical support so that the African Union can do its work." The UN wants to dispatch more than 2,300 peacekeepers to Darfur, paving the way for a 20,000-strong "hybrid" force of AU and UN troops.

The May 2006 Abuja peace deal was signed under intense international pressure by the Sudanese government but with only one rebel faction. There are now at least 10 rebel groups and splinters. *AFP*

PHILIP MORRIS PHILIPPINES
Marlboro
LIGHTS
GOVERNMENT WARNING: CIGARETTE SMOKING IS DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH
Marlboro
LIGHTS
GOVERNMENT WARNING: CIGARETTE SMOKING IS DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH
Marlboro
LIGHTS MENTHOL

NEW

Marlboro 10x2*
LIGHTS MENTHOL

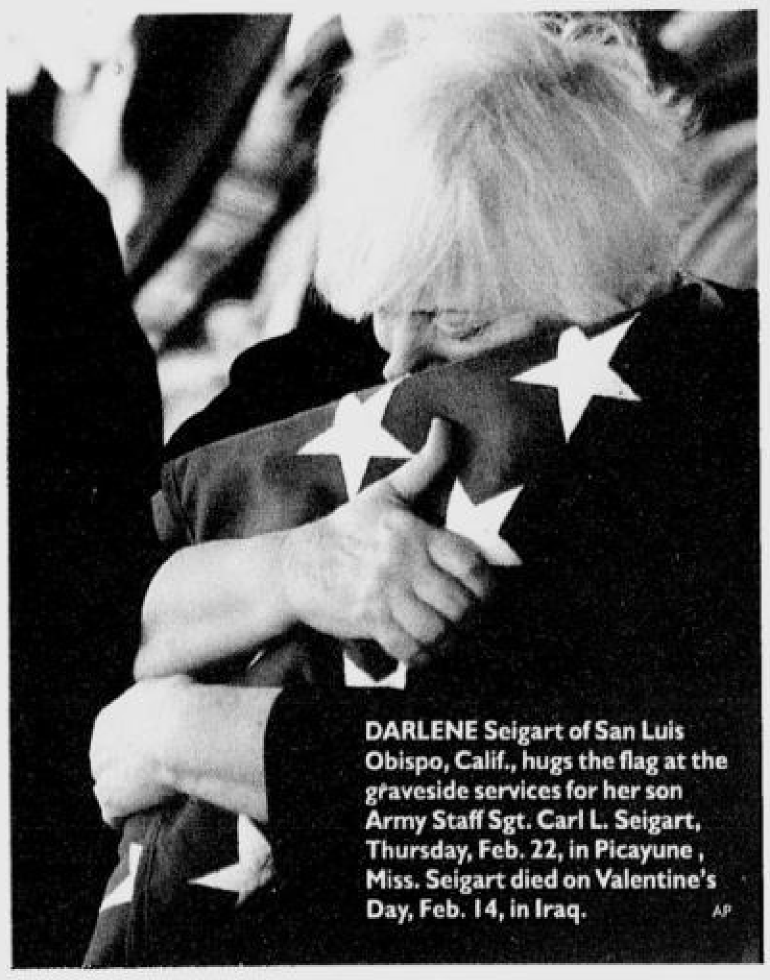
The flavor of Marlboro in a unique box of 10's

₱14.00
per 10 sticks
suggested retail price

Also available in Full Flavor and Lights.
*Marlboro 10x2 now available nationwide.

Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

Iraq rebs' new weapon: Chlorine bomb



DARLENE Seigart of San Luis Obispo, Calif., hugs the flag at the graveside services for her son Army Staff Sgt. Carl L. Seigart, Thursday, Feb. 22, in Picayune, Miss. Seigart died on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, in Iraq. AP

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—INSURGENTS ARE LIKELY TO continue combining car bombs with chlorine gas and other chemicals to launch attacks similar to three in recent weeks that spewed chlorine and sickened scores of Iraqis, the military warned Thursday.

US troops raided a car-bomb factory near Fallujah and found chlorine cylinders and propane tanks among the bomb components.

The raid late Tuesday in Karma, an insurgent-dominated village between Fallujah and Baghdad, led US officials to suggest that insurgents had planned to combine the materials found into a new round of chemical-laden vehicular bombs.

The latest chlorine bombing happened Wednesday in southern Baghdad and killed at least two people and wounded 32 others. Many exhibited symptoms of exposure to chlorine, a greenish gas that burns the skin and can be fatal after a few concentrated, deep breaths.

The Karma site was stocked with "numerous artillery rounds, mortar rounds, bombs, rockets, gutted anti-aircraft shells, a pickup truck and three other vehicles that were already in various stages of preparations as car bombs," said Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno, the second-ranking commander in Iraq. "We also found ingredients to be used to devise or enhance explosives such as fertilizer and chlorine cylinders."

The general insisted that the recent chlorine attacks did not suggest that the insurgency is "any more capable," but said that militants were trying to "adapt in such ways where they can continue to create instability, and that's what they're doing."

Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV told CNN that the troops had found "five complete buildings full of these various types of things," including 65 propane tanks. "What we are seeing is a change in tactics, but the strategy has not changed."

Military officials are also acutely concerned that insurgents have adapted tactics to exploit vulnerabilities in flight patterns of military helicopters, which are expected to fly 400,000 hours this year in Iraq, a 20 percent increase over 2006. At least eight helicopters have been downed in the last month, the latest on Wednesday when a Black Hawk crash-landed in Diyala Province after coming under fire from heavy machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades. No one was wounded in the latest crash.

Odierno said that in two or three of the helicopter downings "ambush sites" had been set up by insurgents. "My guess is we have a cell out there that's somewhat effective," he said.

He said two suspected insurgents, each believed to have played a role in separate helicopter attacks, had been detained in the past week, and one admitted his involvement.

In Ramadi, the Anbar provincial capital, US forces fought a fierce battle with insurgents that officials at the Ramadi hospital said had left at least 27 Iraqis dead. One of the hospital officials, Dr. Abdullah Salah, said four women and four children were among those killed. Witnesses said at least three houses had been attacked by US aircraft. *NYT*

British prince to serve in Iraq

PRINCE Harry training in Cyprus in March 2006. AP

LONDON—PRINCE HARRY IS TO serve in Iraq with his regiment as the first British royal to see active service for 25 years, the Ministry of Defense said Thursday.

The 22-year-old, who is third in line to the throne, is a second lieutenant in the Blues and Royals regiment, which will deploy to Iraq in May and June for six months.

Cornet Wales, as Harry is known in the army, is "over the moon" about the news, according to a regimental source. He will serve as a troop commander, leading 12 men in four Scimitar armored reconnaissance vehicles.

His uncle, Prince Andrew, was the last British royal to be sent to the front line, serving as a Royal Navy helicopter pilot during the 1982 Falklands War.

Queen Elizabeth II insisted her second son should be allowed to do his duty and serve on the front line.

The deployment of Harry, son of Prince Charles and the late princess Diana, comes a day after Britain announced plans to reduce its troop numbers in Iraq.

Prime Minister Tony Blair said Wednesday that the number of British troops in Iraq would be cut by 1,600 to 5,500 in the next couple of months as the Iraqi authorities assume more control in the British sector.

The prince has insisted he should receive no special treatment despite security concerns.

"There's no way I'm going to put myself through Sandhurst (the elite army officers' training college) and then sit on my arse back home while my boys are out fighting for their country," he said in 2005.

He even reportedly threatened to quit the army if he was not allowed to witness front line action.

Blair paid tribute to the young prince's attitude.

"I think it's very typical of him," he told the BBC.

"He's a very brave young man and he's a very determined young man who wants to be part of his regiment and part of the Army.

"And I think that shows a very special character on his part." Amid media suggestions that he will be assigned minders from the elite Special Air Services (SAS) unit of the army, some have voiced concern that Harry could be a target for insurgents seeking a high-profile scalp.

Acknowledging the threat, the Ministry of Defense and Clarence House, the office which handles Harry's affairs, described media speculation about where he would be deployed as "potentially dangerous." In a joint statement they said they will write to news organizations to ask them to "respect this matter of operational security" and allow Harry to complete a "normal tour of duty." *AFP*

US soldier draws 100 years for rape, murder of Iraqi girl

FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY A US soldier was sentenced Thursday to 100 years in prison for his role in the rape and murder of a 14-year-old Iraqi girl and the slaying of her family.

Sgt. Paul Cortez, 24, admitted he was among five soldiers who plotted the March 2006 rape and murders in Mahmudiyah, south of Baghdad, while they were drinking gin and whiskey and playing cards at a traffic checkpoint.

Cortez was in tears as members of his 101st Airborne unit testified on his behalf ahead of sentencing Thursday.

"I'm sorry I let you guys down, you guys treat me better than this," he said.

He also apologized to his two brothers and parents in the courtroom audience: "I love you guys, I'm sorry for what I did." Cortez was convicted of conspiracy to rape, rape, four counts of murder, and other charges including violating a general order by drinking.

Cortez was the second soldier to plead guilty in the high-profile case, one in a series of incidents which have tarnished the reputation of US forces in Iraq.

The military judge in the court martial here first sentenced him Thursday to life in prison without parole, as well as a dishonorable discharge.

But the judge then acknowledged that, under a plea bargain overseen by the commanding general of the 101st Airborne, Cortez could only be sentenced to 100 years imprisonment, which under military law allows the possibility of parole after 10 years.

Defense lawyer William Cassara called the sentence "an appropriate sanction for what he did." The case shocked many by accounts that the soldiers calmly plotted to violate a young girl they had seen walking down the street in the Iraqi village and deliberately tried cover up their crime by killing her family and setting their house alight.

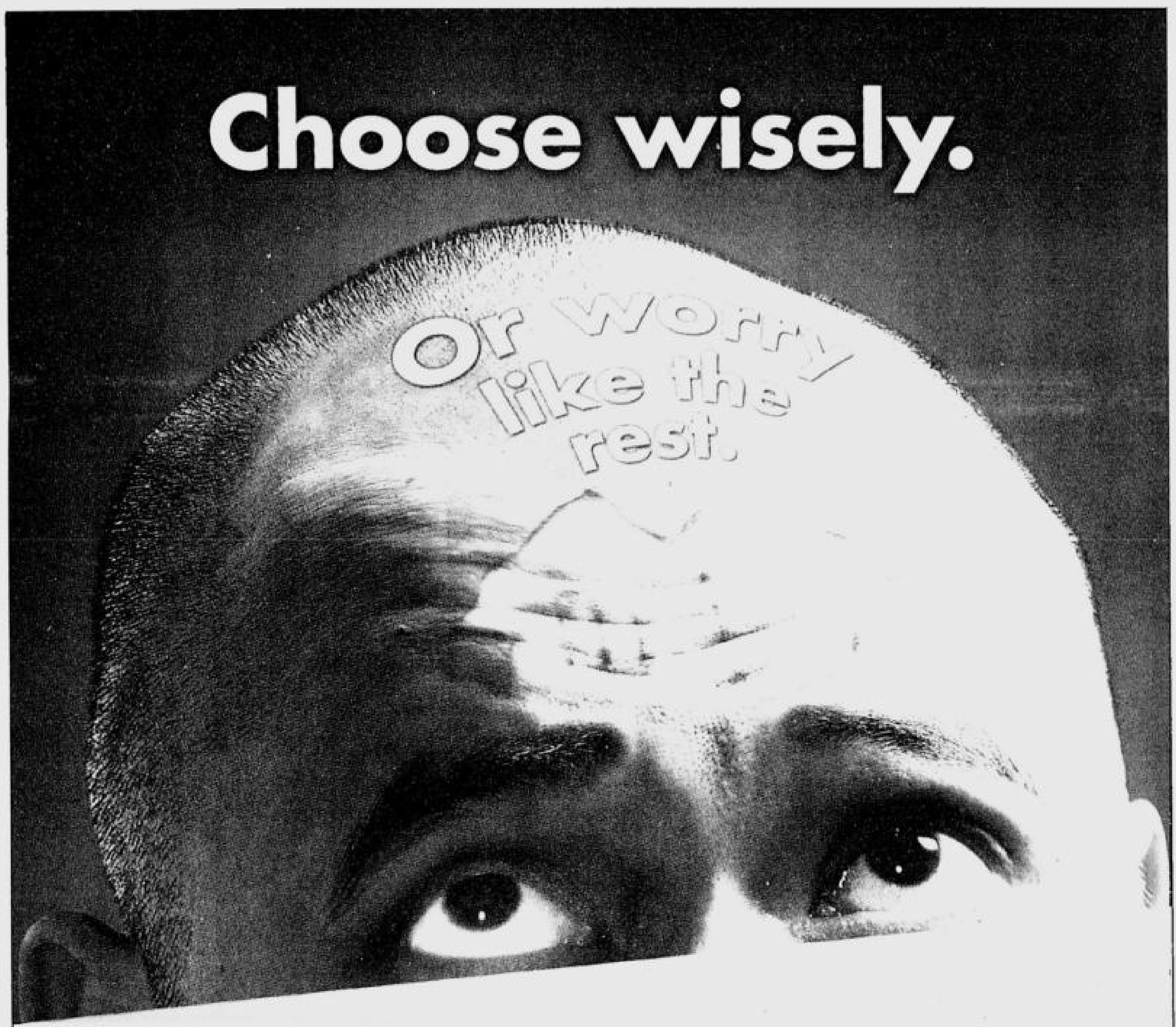
They decided Abeer Kassem Hamza al-Janabi would make a good target for the plan to "have sex with an Iraqi female" because her father was the only man in the house, Cortez told a military court.

In a statement frequently interrupted by tears, Cortez described how a fellow soldier pinned the girl to the ground and held her down while he raped her. Cortez then held al-Janabi down as an accomplice, Specialist James Barker, raped her.

Barker also avoided the death penalty as part of a plea deal last November in which he was sentenced to 90 years in prison and agreed to cooperate with prosecutions of the other soldiers.

Two other soldiers, Private First Class Jesse Spielman and Private First Class Bryan Howard, are awaiting courts-martial in the case, while a fifth, accused ringleader Steve Green, who was discharged from the army before the case came to light, will be tried in federal court at a later date.

During the trial Cortez said he heard about four or five gunshots from the bedroom where Green had taken the girl's parents, Kassem Hamza Rachid al-Janabi and Fakhriya Taha Mohsine al-Janabi and 6-year-old sister, Hadeel Kassem Hamza al-Janabi. *AFP*


Choose wisely.
Or worry like the rest.

HARDIFLEX®
THE DURABLE CEMENT BOARD

Unlike other building boards, only HardiFlex® fiber cement boards are uniquely worry-free. HardiFlex® fiber cement boards are manufactured by James Hardie, a trusted name in construction worldwide, a name trusted in the Philippines for over a decade now.

What's more, James Hardie has a local plant, assuring you that James Hardie is always within your reach, and here to stay.

So, why experiment with other building boards? If you want peace of mind that really lasts, use only HardiFlex® fiber cement boards.

Designed to be worry-free.

For inquiries, please call our Customer Service Hotline: +632-895-5427 (Metro Manila) or 1-800-1-888-5427 (outside Metro Manila, Toll-Free).

NO ASBESTOS
10 Year WARRANTY

James Hardie®

Additional installation information, warranties and warnings are available at www.jameshardie.com.ph

® denotes a registered trademark owned by James Hardie International Finance BV

WHAT'S INSIDE

Salvador shoots 64, seizes lead /A29

SPORTS

Website: www.inquirer.net/sports

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Bulls gore Cavs, snap losing run /A31

Gorres seeks WBO crown today

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

CEBU—FILIPINO Z GORRES tries to fulfill a childhood dream when he challenges World Boxing Organization superflyweight champion Fernando Montiel of Mexico tonight in the main event of the "Moment of Truth" card at the Cebu City Sports Complex here.

The co-feature of the huge fight program at the 20,000-capacity venue will pit Boholano ring sensation Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista against another Mexican, Marino Montiel Gonzalez, over 12 rounds for the vacant WBO Intercontinental and WBO Youth titles.

Both Montiel and Gorres made the fight weight in yesterday's official weigh-in supervised by WBO's Leon Panoncillo and attended by the organization's Puerto Rican president, Paco Valcarcel, at the Rajah Park Hotel here.

Montiel, who earlier made at least five tries on the scales in a frantic effort to make the required weight, came in at 115 lbs for the official weigh-in and had to step on the scales naked.

Gorres made 115 lbs in just his first try.

A confident Bautista came in at an exact 122 lbs, while Gonzalez checked in at 121.5 for their showdown.

Both Jimrex Jaca and defending champion Simson Butar-Butar came in at 130 lbs for their WBO Asia Pacific superfeatherweight collision.

The Indonesian Butar-Butar will defend his WBO Asia-Pacific superfeatherweight crown for the first time against Jaca, who put up a gallant effort against world champion Juan Manuel Marquez in November last year in Hidalgo, Texas.

As a testament to its being the biggest fight card in the history of Cebu boxing, more than 3,000 VIPs are expected to see the ring spectacle.

Superstar Manny Pacquiao is on the list of VIPs.

Valcarcel arrived in Cebu Thursday night as a special guest of sportsman Antonio L. Aldeguer and boxing superstar Oscar De la Hoya, who heads the Golden Boy Promotions.

The first undercard bout is set at 6 p.m. with the Jaca-Butar Butar fight kicking off at 8:30 p.m. It will be followed at 9:30 p.m. by the title clashes between Montiel and Gorres and that of Bautista versus Gonzalez.

ABS-CBN will air the bouts starting at 9:30 p.m., with its global arm, The Filipino Channel, airing it live in Europe and the Middle East and some parts of the United States.

Aside from the three title bouts, also to be featured is ALA Boy Alex John 'Bazooka' Banal, an undefeated prospect who will go up against Thailand's Komrit Evereadygym in an 8-rounder.

Bert Batawang will take on Indonesia's Sofyan Efendi in another 8-rounder.

MOMENT OF TRUTH: World champion Fernando Montiel (right) and challenger Z Gorres strike a pose after yesterday's weigh-in at the Rajah Park Hotel.

CDN PHOTO/LITO TECSON

THE PROTAGONISTS

MONTIEL		GORRES
Cochulito	**NICKNAME**	The Dream
27	**AGE**	24
Los Mochis, Mexico	**BIRTHPLACE**	Nasipit, Agusan Del Norte
5'4	**HEIGHT**	5'4
32-2-1, 24 KOs	**RECORD**	26-1-1, 14 KOs
75%	**KO PERCENTAGE**	54%
Orthodox	**STANCE**	Southpaw
Dec. 6, 1996	**TURNED PRO**	March 31, 2001
Manuel Montiel Sr	**TRAINER**	Freddie Roach/Ala Villamor
65	**REACH**	66
Manuel Montiel Sr	**MANAGER**	Michael Aldeguer

Was Pacquiao invited?

Fight night full of surprises

By Recah Trinidad

CEBU CITY—REIGNING WORLD superflyweight titlist Fernando Montiel of Mexico yesterday scored the first surprise of the championship when he downed a tall mug of ice-cold San Miguel Light beer to cap his post weigh-in meal at the Rajah Park Hotel here.

Prior to the unscheduled beer, Montiel had to strip naked in order to tip the scales at exactly 115 lbs, the championship limit. He then put on a black baseball cap and a fresh white jacket before walking down to the hotel coffee shop where he had a slow bowl of steaming soup and a plate of spaghetti.

The pre-fight beer, quite unusual, could be Montiel's way of instantly recharging and rewarding his drained physique.

It could also be taken as a measure of how confident the champion has become about winning tonight's bout.

KO in second round

"It will now be a knockout in the second round, instead of the first as earlier announced," Montiel announced through an interpreter.

That could sound grossly exaggerated.

But the camp of mandatory challenger Z Gorres knew the Mexican champion would have had to go on a night-long beer binge before today's mandatory title defense for the odds to honestly sway in their favor.

"It's just 50-50 at best," confided trainer Edito "Ala" Villamor of Gorres chance at winning.

For his part, Gorres bared he will have to stalk long and work hard to create openings.

"Montiel is a terrific counter-puncher, *malikot*, very mobile," Gorres said.

Happy surprise

Gorres enters the ring hoping for a needed bonus, but the "Moment of Truth" card was assured early of a happy surprise with the expected attendance today of Manny Pacquiao at the Cebu Sports Complex here.

"Yes, he's coming to the championship," said Pacquiao confidante Rex "Wakee" Salud.

It was Salud who had been tasked by Pacquiao to transmit the news to Gov. Joel Reyes that the boxing superstar could not make it to Palawan for the inauguration of a boxing program facility for the youth.

The celebration was scheduled today after Pacquiao had promised at least four times to Reyes he would attend the dedication of the special facility.

Late arrival

Meanwhile, rising star Boom Boom Bautista appeared to have received a gift package ahead of tonight's fistiana with the late arrival yesterday of the substitute pug who will fight him for the WBO Youth and Intercontinental super bantamweight title.

Marino Gonzales showed up here claiming he was properly prepared for the challenge.

After a full meal, Gonzales tipped the scales at 121.5 lbs looking soft around the belly.

"It should be over in two rounds," observed one of the officials who would work the fight.

No need to sulk, though.

AJ Banal, Bert Batawang, a couple of very promising Pinoy brown dolls, will be seeing action.

Jimrex Jaca's duel with WBO Asia Pacific super featherweight champion Simson Butar-Butar should be a first-class thriller.

Then there's the unveiling of Bai Elorde, grandson of the immortal Gabriel Elorde, who will make a pro debut against Joseph Mateo of Butuan City at 130 lbs.

"The presence of Manny Pacquiao will help us tremendously," said Tony Aldeguer, the main man behind this biggest fight promotion in here since Gerry Peñalosa's world title defense against Lee Seung-koo in 1997.

Aldeguer did not confirm whether Pacquiao has been invited to tonight's world title fight.

PACQUIAO: Big attraction

nightcharmers
Grab the star selection by PAR EXCELLENCE!

cotton undershirts in black or white
P229.75 ea

Gartered boxer briefs
P189.75 ea

Hi - cut colored briefs
P159.75 ea

Cotton sandos assorted colors
P199.75 ea

Bikini briefs assorted colors
Now P120.00
Regular P239.75

Muscle shirts in new colors
P199.75 ea

now thru March 4
Items available at the ***Men's Wear Department***

We've got it all for you! SM DEPARTMENT STORE

MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • MANDURRIAO • CEBU • DAVAO
CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARIÑAS • BATANGAS • DELGADO • SAN LAZARO • SUCAT • STA. ROSA • CLARK • MALL OF ASIA • LIPA

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0536, Series of 2007.

Darchinyan wants Pacman

LOS ANGELES—ARMENIAN-BORN Australian Vic Darchinyan, who defends his International Boxing Federation flyweight crown here next week against Mexican Victor Burgos, is pondering moving up to face bigger rivals.

Filipino star Manny Pacquiao is one of three foes Darchinyan hopes to fight before ending his career, although it would mean moving up and leaving behind the domination of his division.

That would be no mean feat as Pacquiao currently fights five divisions and more than 8kg heavier than Darchinyan.

"I'm not jumping too much to fight him. He's not too much bigger than me," said Darchinyan, who would hope the featherweight would drop down at least one class. "He can make the weight. I know my power. I know I'm good in that division."

While he hungers for a chance to face the Manila legend, the unbeaten Aussie has no desire for a trip to Thailand and a unification bout against 63-2 rival flyweight king Pongsaklek Wonjongkam, whom he dismisses as a paper lion.

Darchinyan, 27-0 with 21 knockouts, also wants to fight the Marquez-Vazquez winner and Jorge Arce, the interim WBC champion behind Pongsaklek who is 43-3 with one draw and 33 knockouts. But first he must dispatch Burgos, 39-14, with three draw and 23 knockouts. *AFP*

Reyes to bare all-pro RP team

By Musong R. Castillo and June Navarro

NO MATTER THE FINAL COMPOSITION, the Philippines is assured of a balanced, firepower-packed team for the Southeast Asian Basketball championship in May.

Just look at the list of candidates national coach Chot Reyes has at his disposal.

Centers: Rudy Hatfield, Asi Taulava, Mick Pennisi, Kerby Raymundo and Enrico Villanueva; **Forwards:** Dondon Hontiveros, Danny Seigle, Tony dela Cruz, Ren-Ren Ritualo, Ranidel de Ocampo and John Arigo; **Guards:** Mark Caguioa, Jay-Jay Helterbrand, Jimmy Alapag and Willie Miller.

Reyes, who will also likely call the shots for that team, came up with the lineup after consultation with members of his equally star-studded coaching staff (Jong Uichico, Tim Cone, Norman Black, Binky Favis) on Thursday night.

Incidentally, the INQUIRER learned from a very reliable source yesterday that the Seaba joust could be moved to the Philippines from Malaysia through the efforts of telecommunications tycoon Manny V. Pangilinan, the BAP-Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas president.

The source, who was involved in the painstaking process that brought back the country's international federation (Fiba)-recognition recently, said MVP had asked that the Philippines host the multi-nation event to signal the return of RP basketball on a grand scale.

Talks are also ongoing to use the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) as venue with Pangilinan reportedly giving specific instructions of opening admission to the public.

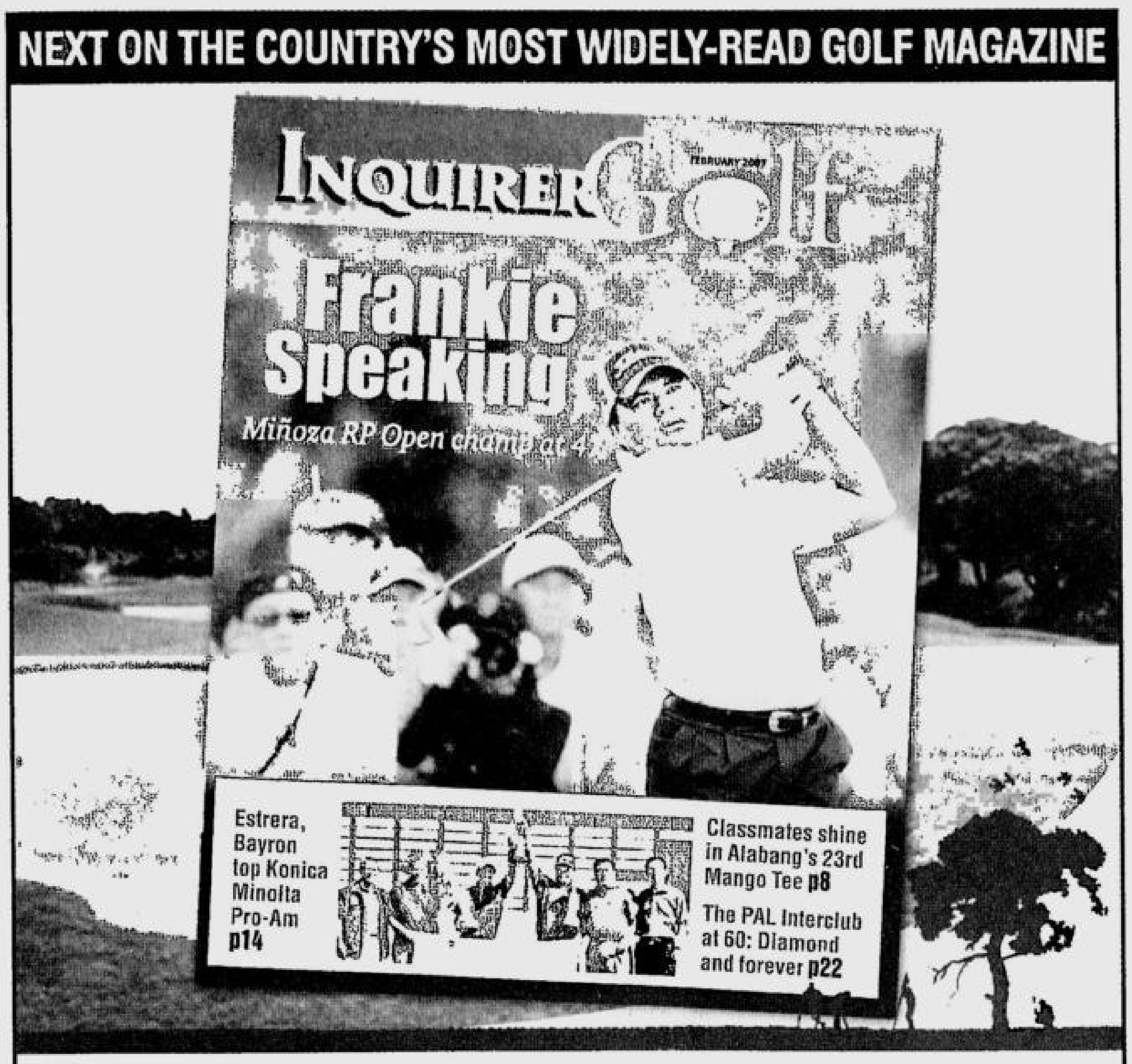
A press conference, meanwhile, has been set by the PBA at noon today where Reyes will announce his selections.

The Fiba suspension on the Philippines was lifted on Wednesday and the newly affiliated BAP-SBP is wasting no time in coming up with a formidable squad that will train immediately once it is named.

Though a selection committee headed by PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad had earlier recommended a pro-am team for the Seaba tilt, the PBA is expected to get the concession of forming the team for the qualifying events leading to the Fiba-Asia Championships.

The recommendation for Reyes to designate one of his assistants to handle the Seaba team is also expected to be waived in the wake of calls for a super-strong lineup.

NEXT ON THE COUNTRY'S MOST WIDELY-READ GOLF MAGAZINE


INQUIRER Golf
FEBRUARY 2007
Frankie Speaking
Miñoza RP Open champ at 4
Estrera, Bayron top Konica Minolta Pro-Am p14
Classmates shine in Alabang's 23rd Mango Tee p8
The PAL Interclub at 60: Diamond and forever p22

FREE INQUIRER GOLF COPIES are available monthly at: Aguinaldo Golf Club, Alabang Country Club, Ayala Greenfield Estates, Calatagan Golf Club, Camp John Hay Golf Club, Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club, Canlubang Golf and Country Club, Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club, Eastridge Golf Club, Forest Hills Golf Club, Fort Ilocandia Golf Club, Intramuros Golf Club, Luisita Golf and Country Club, Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club, Manila Golf Club, Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club, Orchard Golf and Country Club, Philippine Navy Golf Club, Riviera Golf and Country Club, Royal Northwoods Golf Club, Royale Tagaytay Country Club, Riviera Golf and Country Club, Splendido Golf Club, Sta. Elena Golf Club, Sherwood Hills Golf Club, Subic Bay Golf Club, Summit Point Golf and Country Club, Tagaytay Highlands Golf Club, Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club, The Country Club, Valley Golf and Country Club, Villamor Golf Club & Wack Wack Golf and Country Club

Visayas Alta Vista Golf and Country Club, Cebu Country Club, Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club & Iloilo Golf and Country Club

Mindanao Pueblo de Oro Golf and Country Club, Rancho Palos Verdes Golf Club & Apo Golf Club

The following golf stores/pro shops... Callaway outlets in Edsa Shangri-La Mall and Panay Ave., Quezon City; Custom Clubmaker; Golf Depot in Park Square, Makati and Alabang Town Center; Bravo Store in Park Square and Festivall Mall; Mizuno outlets in Alabang, Kitanlad, SM MegaMall and Libis, Quezon City; Pacsports/Nike outlet in Salcedo Village, Makati

And Metro Manila's premier driving ranges.... The Manila Polo Club, The Makati Golf Club, City Golf in Ortigas, Pasig and Southpoint in Alabang as well as the Makati Sports Club and Celebrity Sports Club

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VALUED PARTNERS:
AMERICAN EYE CENTER
Titleist
maruman
Callaway GOLF
TaylorMade
JOHNNIE WALKER
Mizuno
PLDT WeROAM

DEFIANCE OF
A NEW PAPER WAS BORN

We remember EDSA. Do you? Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.
INQUIRER

Canlubang zeroes in on 14th title

Bayrons fire sub-par rounds as Sweeties build 12-pt PAL Interclub bulge

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

CAGAYAN DE ORO—THE HOTTEST AMATEUR IN THE LAND YIELDed the spotlight to younger brother Rufino Bayron as defending champion Canlubang rumbled ahead by 12 points yesterday after three rounds of the 60th Philippine Airlines Interclub golf tournament.

At 25—two years younger than the more famous Jay Bayron— the rookie Rufino, known as Baybay to his teammates, shot a tournament best six-under-par 66 for 42 points that became the cornerstone of Canlubang's 145 output for the day as it outscored chief rival Manila Southwoods anew at the Del Monte course.

SWEET 42: Rufino Bayron

Jay, the national amateur champion last December and winner of the Konica-Minolta Pro-Am (with pro Edwin Estrera) and his division in the RP Open last month, also broke par with a 71 for 37 points. Jun Bernis and another tyro, Paul Echavez, completed the Canlubang onslaught with 33 each.

The powerhouse team from Laguna now has a total of 427 as it zeroed in on a record high 14th title and a second straight two-division sweep following its victory in the Seniors category last Sunday.

Anthony Fernando again starred with 37 points for Southwoods, which has found no answer to the explosive show by the Davao-born players, who found their way in the Canlubang lineup as standouts of the national caddies tournament.

Tonlit Asistio bounced back from his disqualification in Round 1 for failing to sign his scorecard by getting 36 points, Miko Yee added 35 and Jong Laput had a 34 that completed Southwoods' 142 production for a 415 total.

"We're not giving up," said Southwoods skipper Thirdy Escano, noting that his team had once rallied from 14 points down to forge ahead although the comeback did not happen in the last round.

ERNIE U SARMIENTO

MANILA Southwoods' Miggy Yee, at 10 the youngest ever to compete in the tournament, tees off on No. 11.

The final 18 holes is set today at the Pueblo de Oro course here where Southwoods gained only two points, 135-133, in the second round Thursday.

Mark Fernando, Canlubang's top scorer in the first round, gets going again with another Davaoeño Mario Labajo today, even as Southwoods taps Asian Gamers Michael Bibat and Gene Bondoc in a desperate bid to turn things around.

Rufino Bayron, who took the lead in the individual race with 68 points, pulled off a six-birdie, no-bogey round that now stands as the best effort so far on a course with similar features as the Apo layout where the former Davao bagtoters learned the game.

"If we can get four 34s in the final round, we're OK," said Canlubang skipper Luigi Yulo, who dethroned Southwoods by only four points last year.

Co-host Del Monte, a far cry from the team that won this in historic fashion in 2004, fell farther back in third place with 395.

Meanwhile, Cebu Country Club assembled 118 points to pull away by nine from Orchard in the Founders Division with a 360 total. Wack Wack stood just a point behind Orchard with 350.

The championship in the two lowest divisions had earlier been settled with a round left. Valley all but clinched the Sportswriters trophy by opening a 23-point lead over Villamor while Maharlika was beyond recall in the Friendship class with a 31-point margin over Stanford.

The event's major sponsors are Action Asia, Airbus, Boeing, Bombardier, Callaway Golf, 101.1 Crossover, GE Aviation, GECAS, Mizuno, People Asia and Royal Caribbean while the corporate supporters are Business Mirror, Fortune Tobacco, GMA-7, Honda Cars Davao, Premier Wine & Spirits, Radio Mindanao Network and www.inquirer.net.

The other backers are Century Park Hotel, C-Lium Fibre, Foreign Post, Lufthansa Technik and What's On Expat Communications.

The third-round standings:

CHAMPIONSHIP—Canlubang 427 (149-133-145); Manila Southwoods 415(138-135-142); Del Monte 395 (137-131-127); Riviera 311 (97-104-110);); Bay Area 311 (74-65-82); Club Filipino 200 (75-66-59)

FOUNDERS—Cebu Country Club 360 (109-133-118); Orchard 351 (20-122-109); Wack Wack 350 (116-120-114); Negros 344 (109-119-116); Pueblo de Oro 331 (108-119-104); Forest Hills 308 (101-115-106); Sta. Elena 303 (102-898-103); Rancho Palos Verdes 289 (87-109-93); Sherwood Hills 278 (92-106-80)

SPORTSWRITERS—Valley 351 (122-115-114); Villamor 328 (105-124-99); Mactan Coral (99-113-101); Camp Evangelista 307 (97-111-99); Iloilo 306 (109-93-104); Alabang 300 (94-110-96); Alta Vista 295 (95-110-91); Camp John Hay 291 (100-94-97); Lanang 291 (94-112-85); Lanang 291 (94-112-85); Phil. Navy 289 (95-102-92); Iligan 288 (95-109-84); Paoay 270 (93-91-86); Davao 269 (79-100-90); Zamboanga 263 (77-98-88); Apo 240 (86-82-72); Greenhills 230 (86-88-56)

FRIENDSHIP—Maharlika 284 (112-91-81); Stanford 253 (90-80-83); Fil-Am Florida 243 (81-75-85); IAGC San Diego 223 (90-76-57); PGA British Columbia 222 (56-86-80); Guinhalaran 222 (85-62-75); Crystal Springs 219 (79-66-76); UP Tee Jots 218 (88-73-57); Seattle 185 (56-48-81); Mt. Malindang 184 (73-45-66); Bacolod 184 (73-51-60); Sky West 182 (63-57-62); Paga San Jose 182 (71-51-60); Australasian Melbourne 179 (78-49-52); Cotabato 160 (58-43-63); Riyadh FGA 137 (36-43-58)); Mountain Shadows 116 (40-37-39

RAZON MEMORIAL

Salvador shoots 64, seizes lead

By Musong R. Castillo

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA—UNHERALDED Elmer Salvador seized a one-stroke lead after 36 holes of the P4.4 million Don Pocholo Razon Memorial, using crisp iron play for a two-under-par 68 yesterday at The Country Club here.

The long-hitting 32-year-old took over the pace from former Philippine Open champion Gerald Rosales, who fired a level 70 and now trailed Salvador's 135 total by one.

"I will do my best to hang on to this lead until the final hole," Salvador, who led after the first round last year only to finish fourth, said in Filipino.

"This could be my biggest break."

The 30-year-old Rosales had one birdie against a bogey in a round that was again played in benign conditions. He continued to struggle on the sleek putting surfaces, muffing birdie chances one after the other.

Former winner Jherome Delariarte also matched par to be at 138, three off the lead and with a solid shot at the P1.3 million champion's purse.

The charismatic Frankie Miñoza also found himself in familiar terrain.

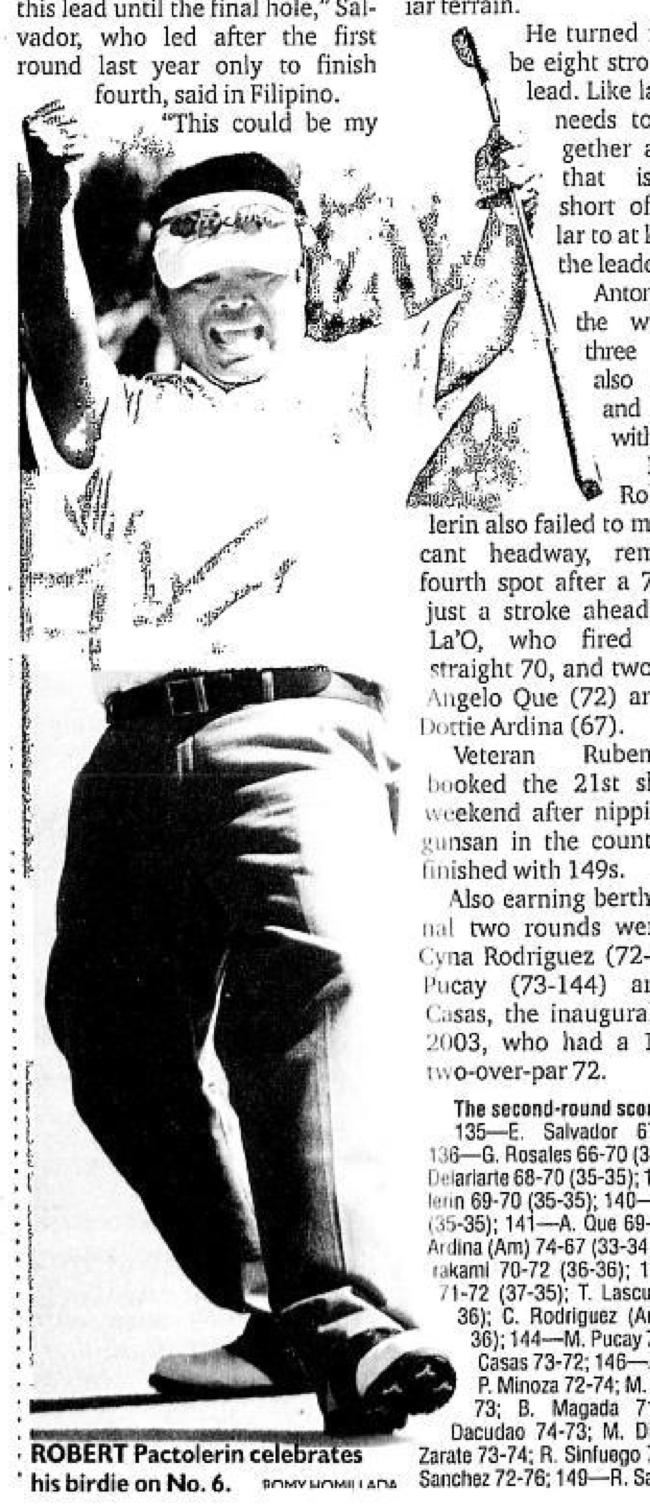
He turned in a 72, to be eight strokes off the lead. Like last year, he needs to piece together a weekend that is nothing short of spectacular to at least crowd the leaders.

Antonio Lascuña, the winner here three years ago, also fired a 72 and was tied with Miñoza.

Burly Robert Pactolerin also failed to make significant headway, remaining in fourth spot after a 70 for 139, just a stroke ahead of Cookie La'O, who fired a second straight 70, and two in front of Angelo Que (72) and amateur Dottie Ardina (67).

Veteran Ruben Sasutil booked the 21st slot for the weekend after nipping Rey Pagunsan in the countback. Both finished with 149s.

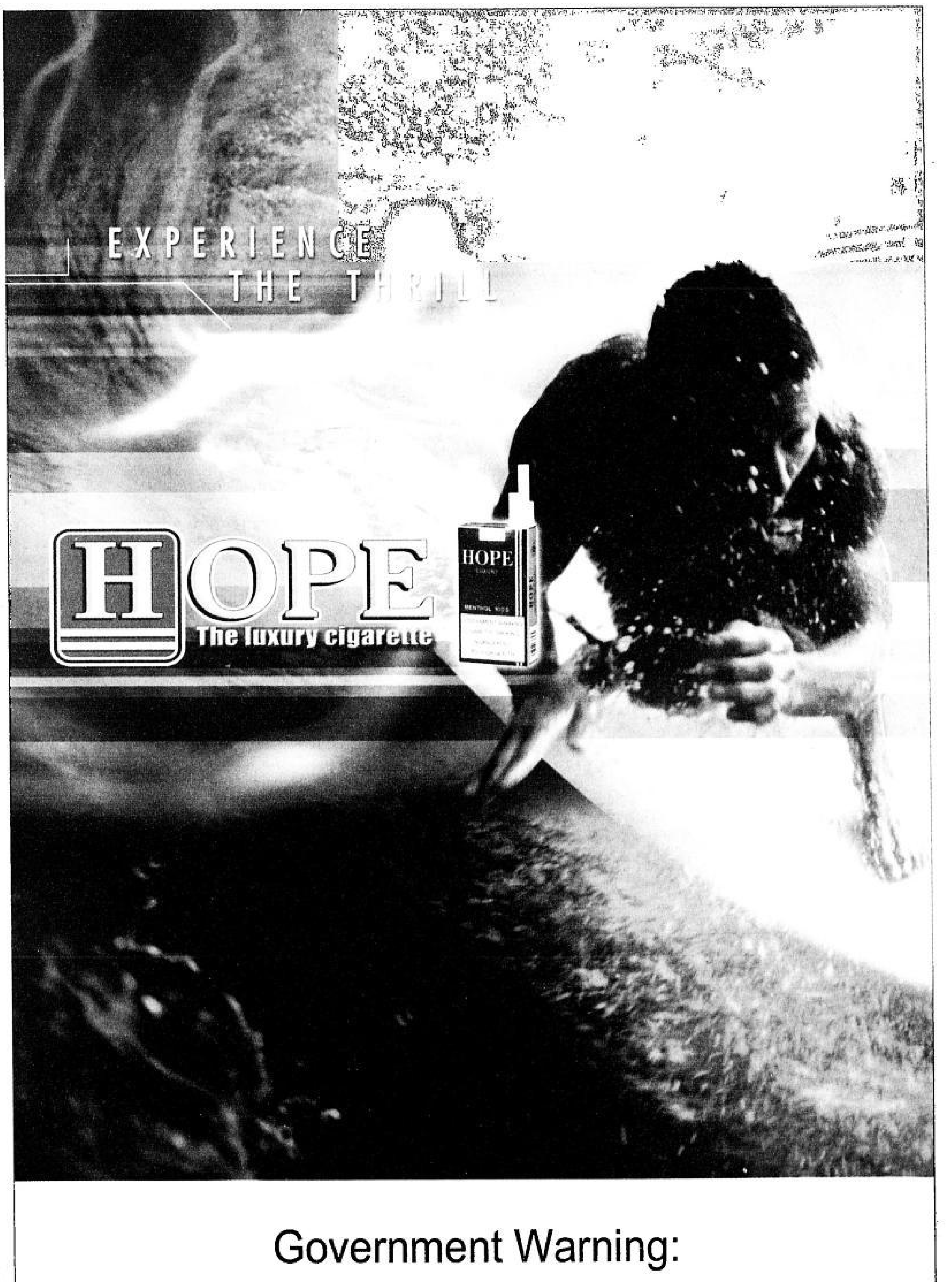
Also earning berths for the final two rounds were amateur Cyna Rodriguez (72-143), Mars Pucay (73-144) and Cassius Casas, the inaugural winner in 2003, who had a 145 after a two-over-par 72.



ROBERT Pactolerin celebrates his birdie on No. 6. ROMY HOMILLADA

The second-round scores:

135—E. Salvador 67-68 (33-35); 136—G. Rosales 66-70 (35-35); 138—J. Delariarte 68-70 (35-35); 139—R. Pactolerin 69-70 (35-35); 140—C. La'O 70-70 (35-35); 141—A. Que 69-72 (38-34); D. Ardina (Am) 74-67 (33-34); 142—A. Murakami 70-72 (36-36); 143—F. Minoza 71-72 (37-35); T. Lascuna 71-72 (36-36); C. Rodriguez (Am) 71-72 (36-36); 144—M. Pucay 71-73; 145—C. Casas 73-72; 146—A. Balan 77-69; P. Minoza 72-74; M. Dumandan 73-73; B. Magada 71-75; 147—L. Dacudao 74-73; M. Dizon 74-73; D. Zarate 73-74; R. Sinfuego 72-75; 148—E. Sanchez 72-76; 149—R. Sasutil 72-77



Government Warning:

Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

It's official: Red Lions junk Koy

By Jasmine W. Payo

COACH KOY BANAL OFFICIALLY GOT HIS MARCHING ORDERS AS SAN BEDA announced the appointment of Talk 'N Text team manager Frankie Lim as interim coach of the Red Lions.

Telecommunications tycoon Manny V. Pangilinan, the collegiate team's top patron, made the announcement Thursday night at the Red and White Ball, an event that honored the 2006 NCAA champions and other outstanding San Beda alumni.

The INQUIRER, quoting at least two reliable sources, broke the story on Banal's impending departure from the Red Lions' coaching staff on Wednesday.

Banal earlier said that a "disagreement on principles" with the group running the basketball program led to his dismissal.

"The negotiations bogged down," said Lim, who will be assisted by San Beda team manager Mike Advani.

"Mike and I will be the OICs (officers-in-charge)," said Lim. "We were asked to take care of the team. Most probably, they will make the proper announcement (on the new coach) next week."

Lim and Advani had been manning the Lions' training in the last four days.

"The players are excited to learn new things," said the 46-year-old Lim.

He will be calling the shots when San Beda battles UAAP champion University of Santo Tomas in the "Unity in Sports" event on Sunday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

OUT: Koy Banal

IN: Frankie Lim

"It's my school, I can't say no," said Lim after his formal introduction to the school community.

Lim was reportedly part of a short list that included Purefoods assistant coach Ronnie Magsanoc and former PBA mentor Eric Altamirano.

Despite steering San Beda to the end of a 28-year NCAA title drought last year, Banal ran into conflict with the team's decision-makers due to his other coaching obligations.

He also holds a head-coaching post with Magnolia in the PBL and is an assistant mentor for Purefoods in the PBA.

"Of course I felt sad, but we can't do anything about it," said San Beda forward Yousif Aljamal, last year's Finals Most Valuable Player.

"It's the decision of the management so we have to welcome our new coach and help each other."

With only four months left before the Lions kick off their title defense, forward Rogemar Menor said the players have kept their focus on the hardcourt.

"We were all surprised when we were informed about it," the 6-foot-3 Menor said. "It's sad, but life must go on. We have to show our Bedan spirit that despite the problems, we're still united."

Lim suited up as a guard in San Beda's back-to-back title runs in 1977 and 1978.

He played for several PBA teams including Alaska, Purefoods, Shell and San Miguel Beer from 1982 to 1996 before moving to the sidelines as an assistant of Altamirano in Purefoods and then getting appointed as team manager of Talk 'N Text.

Many players are big, talented but don't use their brains–Cezar

By Musong R. Castillo

THERE ARE A FEW GRAY STREAKS IN the hair and wrinkles in the face that don't look that bad. These, plus the wire-rimmed glasses, make Philip Cezar look like the politician that he is and a bit of the great player he once was.

But hearing him talk—in that same convincing tone that helped characterized his stellar 17-year career in the Philippine Basketball Association—gives one an idea of how different the game is being played these days.

The long-armed, 6-foot-3 defense specialist would give everything—and give up everything—just to be able to measure himself against the PBA stars of the present day.

"There's no finesse in the game (today)," Cezar told the INQUIRER in Filipino Wednesday night, just before tip-off of Game 5 of the Talk 'N Text Philippine Cup Finals between Barangay Ginebra and San Miguel Beer.

"During our time, our skills went hand in hand with the mind," Cezar, now 54, added. "Today, I see a many big, talented players who don't really use their brains when they play.

"If those players were there (during our time), even if they are superstars now, they would go nowhere."

The man acknowledged as "The Scholar" didn't really name the players, but said San Miguel Beer's Dondon Hontiveros and Lordy Tugade are the only two who impress him.

"These days, players need to be bulky and strong," he said. "The skinny ones are having a hard time out there, but not them (Hontiveros and Tugade), because they're intelligent."

A confessed heavy smoker and drinker who loved the night life during his prime, Cezar—the 1980 PBA MVP—was one of the skinny ones in the old days.

But his vices didn't prevent him from winning 13 titles with Crispa and one each with Great Taste and Ginebra San Miguel and from being ultimately named as one of the league's 25 Greatest Players of all time back in 1999.

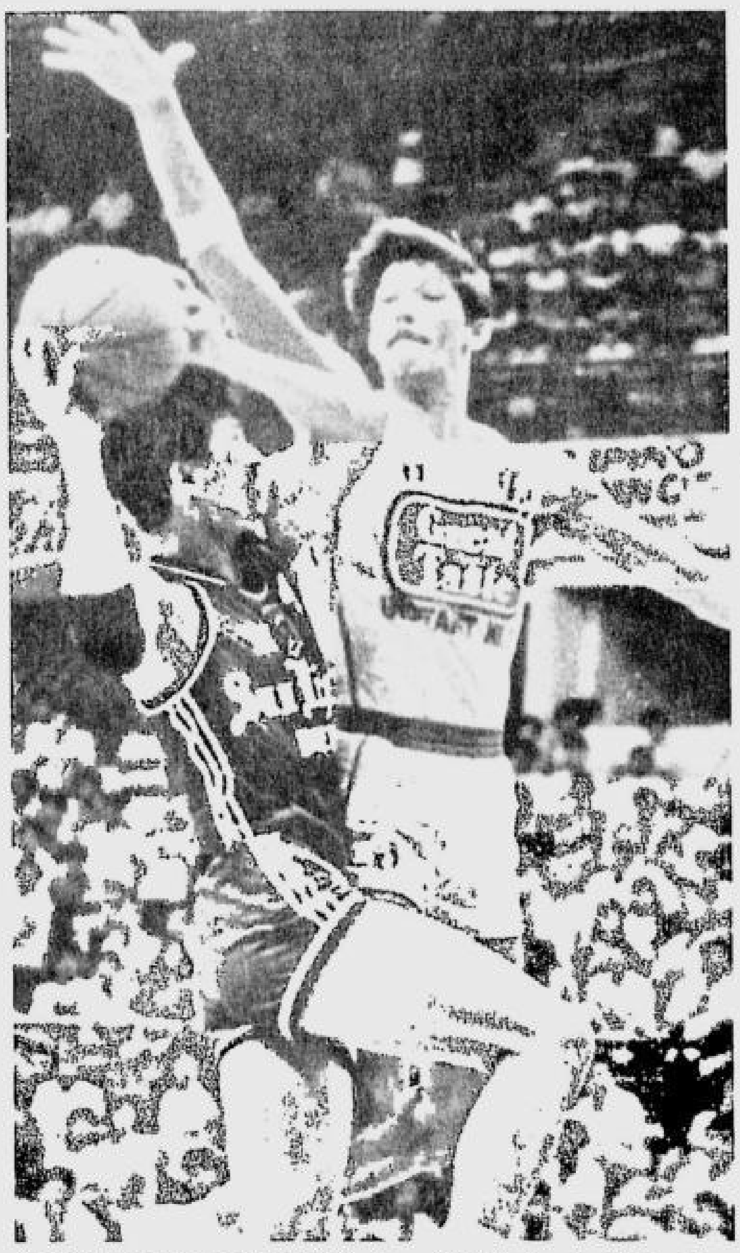
The former vice mayor of San Juan agreed that the PBA is regaining its popularity, although he said it might not be able to reach the heights during the Crispa-Toyota rivalry.

"It was crazy in those days," Cezar said. "(If you're a Crispa player) you couldn't even hang out in the same disco where the Toyota players were. *Umaabot pa kami ng presinto dahil sa away sa* court."

"*Ngayon, magkabanggaan lang, tapikan pa sa puwet, tapos* sorry," he said. "The physicality of the game then was not masked, *talagang may dugo. Kaya mas* exciting. Involved *talaga ang tao* (fans)."

Philip would love the chance to be able to play in this day and age. But there should be none of the cigarettes, booze and the late nights.

And he said that he'd be fine, even if it would mean wearing the short shorts of the old days.


DEFENSIVE SPECIALIST: Philip Cezar (right) rises to block old rival Ramon Fernandez in the post-Crispa-Toyota days.

Kiamco stuns Hohmann in New York tilt

WARREN KIAMCO stunned former world pool champion Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, 9-7, Thursday to lead six Filipino pool wizards who won in the opener of the Turning Stone Classic VIII in Verona, New York.

KIAMCO: Big win

United Sates-based Filipinos Jose "Amang" Parica and Santos Sambajon, Asian Games gold medalist Antonio Gabica and US Open runner-up Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat also hurdled their respective rivals.

Parica, who spearheaded the Filipinos' invasion of the US billiards circuit in the 80s, bested Mike Gasper, 9-3, Sambajon trounced Tom Acciavetti, 9-6, Gabica defeated Tom di Matteo, 9-4 and Luat beat Jason Michas, 9-5.

The huge win sent Kiamco, a newly installed member of Bugsy Promotions, into a collision course with stablemate Gandy Valle in the second round. Valle blanked Ron Kingsley, 9-0.

Other renowned cue artists who won their first round matches were Charlie Williams, Johnny Archer, Mika Immonen, Tony Crosby, Robb Saez, Shawn Putnam and Steve Lillis.

Williams thwarted Pete Genovese, 9-6; Archer blasted Carl Mondillo, 9-0; Immonen subdued Rich Fontanez, 9-4; Crosby crushed Keith Schneiderman, 9-1; Saez routed Alex Rodomski, 9-0; Putnam repulsed Ed Matushoneck, 9-6; and Lillis turned back Greg Antonakos, 9-6. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Why can't we be like the British?

By Percy D. Della

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA—OUR BLIND devotion to basketball prompts an exasperated question *a la* Professor Henry Higgins' in "My Fair Lady."

Why can't we be like the British and treat James Naismith's invention as a sport unworthy of a nation's Olympic aspirations?

Now that we are back in the embrace of the international basketball federation (Fiba)—we are running around like a chicken with its head cut off.

We are again deluding ourselves with the impossible dream of landing an Olympic berth and worse, winning a medal in the sport.

Yet, the British, hosts of the 2012 Summer Olympics believes that the sport is a lost cause in so far as medals are concerned.

Britain placed 10th overall in the 2004 Olympics in Athens and, as always, remains an ubiquitous presence in the modern Games.

But it has neither the inclination nor the desire to make it to the cage tournament in Beijing next year.

The British, light years behind in the sport, see no point competing with the Greeks, Croatians, Italians, French and other continental powerhouses for a European slot in the Beijing Games.

Only once—as Olympic hosts in 1948—has Britain been represented in an Olympic basketball tournament.

Britain remains uncertain that as Summer Olympic host for the third time in 2012, it would have a competitive team to take to the court by then, despite an automatic berth to the tournament proper.

Facing a formidable field in basketball, the British would rather spend precious pounds nurturing future gold winners in individual sports.

They would rather train stars in the mold of fabled tracksters Sebastian Coe and Steve Ovett and archer Sybil Fenton "Queenie" Newall—a gold medal winner when Britain first hosted the Games in 1908.

Newall was 53 years old at that time and remains the oldest female gold medalist in Olympic history.

For a country that has won 92 Olympic gold medals through the years, desisting from the Summer Games' cage tournament for the longest time is a no-brainer.

COMMENTARY

Anyway, would it not be practical if we temper our enthusiasm for an Olympic berth in the sport?

We can wrap ourselves with the flag of our fathers who made the sport worth embracing in the olden days.

But the time is now to stop the nonsense. The time is now to accept the fact that we are now outcasts on the international basketball stage.

Do we have to suffer more ignominious defeats to feel degraded and become cage cynics at long last?

Mmmm, Mmmm, wouldn't it be loverly if we can get practical like the British?

Just you wait, 'enry 'iggins, just you wait!

* * *

In a state obsessed with the automobile, the second Tour of California cycling marathon is a welcome relief for sports spectators.

And the only Californian and the first non-European ever to win the Tour de France three times wants to make sure that his sport is drug free.

Greg Lemond, a household name before Lance Armstrong was in world cycling, wants drug testing policies in the sport become stricter, although it is now stricter than drug policies of Major League Baseball and the National Football League.

Lemond is calling for more stringent drug testing in the light of American Floyd Landis' tainted win in the Tour de France last year. If found to have used performance-enhancing substances, Landis could become the first person stripped of his title.

The burning question—how drug free is Philippine cycling?

* * *

Sports note: The Ilocos Sur Electric Cooperative (is it really a cooperative?) is the subject of unsavory e-mails from home. The word is ISECO, otherwise known as ISECWAT (thief) in my neck of the woods, continues to game unsuspecting customers with fast meters. I know, my household of two, repeat two in Candon City has been gamed before. I wonder what my meter reading would be this month, while my wife and I are out of the country.

SPORTSWATCH

80 tennis age-groupers vie for honors

SAN PABLO CITY—SOME 80 AGE-GROUPERS IN SOUTHERN TAGALOG take center stage starting today in the 2007 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop at the Alina Tennis Center here. National coach Totoy Alina coordinated the Milo event, which is celebrating its 20th year. Featured categories in the Philippine Tennis Association-sanctioned event organized by CTW and supported by Prince, are the boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and the unisex 10-under divisions. "We have campaigned very hard for this tennis tournament and we are happy that tennis clubs responded positively," said Alina. "We hope it could be an annual event here in San Pablo for the benefit of the junior players in the region."

South Luzon Tangkad Sagad caging on

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—TWENTY SCHOOLS SEE ACTION TODAY IN THE South Luzon championship of the 2007 Cherifer Tangkad Sagad Basketball Tournament at the Los Baños municipal covered courts. Morning Star Montessori School leads the team entries in this third leg of the Cherifer hoopfest organized by Bernard Ocampo and conceptualized by product manager Tom Meneses and tournament director Edmundo "Ato" Badolato of San Beda. Other pre-tournament favorites in the Adidas-supported event are the Lopez Elementary School, Anos Grade School and the Maquiling School. The five-on-five tournament is open to boys 12 years and younger.

Talisay 6-cocker finals under way

THOUSANDS OF DERBY ENTHUSIASTS ARE EXPECTED TO TROOP TO THE New Talisay Cockpit in Cebu today for the finals of the 200-entry "Away-Kalipay sa Talisay 6-Cock Derby. Hosted by engineer Sonny Lagon, Robert Yu and Ricoh Masucol and sponsored by Thunderbird, the event is regarded as Cebu's most prestigious cocking event. Meanwhile, the 25th Anniversary 4-Cock Derby gets going at the Cuenca Sports Coliseum with more than 100 entries seeing action. Dubbed as the "Balahura sa Cuenca" derby, the four-cocker, also sponsored by Thunderbird, will start tonight with the 2-cock eliminations.

Nat'l Rambulan all set in San Juan

ONE HUNDRED-FIFTY ENTRIES HAVE CONFIRMED THEIR PARTICIPATION in the National Rambulan 8-Cock Derby five days before the start of the competition at the San Juan Coliseum. The eliminations and semifinals at the venue sizzles on March 1, 3 and 6, according to organizers Rodolfo Pineda and Butch Nunez. The super event, which offers a guaranteed prize of P10.5 million, will also be staged in 22 other venues across the country and requires an entry fee of P11,000. The champions will get P6 million. The winning handler and gaffer will receive P350,000 and P150,000, respectively.

Round 2 of 'Largahan' at Roligon today

THE SECOND ROUND OF ROLIGON MEGA COCKPIT'S "LARGAHAN 5-COCK Derby" blasts off at 2 p.m. today with 95 matches lined up. Twenty-two participants advanced to the finals with two wins each in Thursday's opening round of the derby sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone. Among them are Rep. Gerry Espina, Rudy Gatab, Danny Pactao, two entries of Ati Carlos, Allan Siaco, Darwin Torres, Roger Parungao, Muling Dorado, Enjie Dimaculangan and Boy Marcelino. A guaranteed prize of P2 million awaits the winners, said host Rolly Ligon. Entry fee is P4,400.

150 entries collide at LP Coliseum

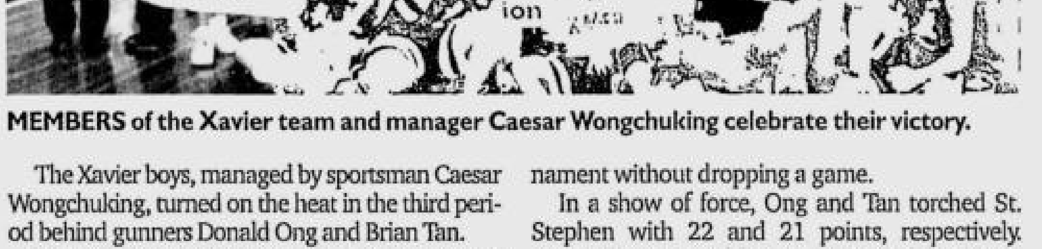
A FIELD OF 150 COCKERS AND HACKFIGHT ENTHUSIASTS FROM METRO Manila plunges into action starting at 11 a.m. today in the "Fastest Win One-Cock Timbangan" at the Las Piñas Coliseum. The champion will win P35,000, the second placer P20,000, third placer P10,000, and fourth to 10th placers P5,000 each. Hosts Lito Natanuan and Jimmy Quilatan reminds participants to submit their entries today, from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Matching of entries immediately follows. Meanwhile, the venue's "Sunday Hackfight Concierto" unfolds tomorrow at 8 a.m. with 200 entries, said coliseum manager Alex Tobias.

Xavier five makes it 5 straight in Tong Lian caging

XAVIER SCHOOL COMPLETED ITS DATE WITH history in the Tiong Lian Basketball Championship Aspirants Division by sweeping past St. Stephen, 67-57, Tuesday for their fifth straight title at the Chiang Kai Shek College gym.

Showing the same tenacity that enabled them to top the elimination and quarterfinal rounds, the Xavier cagers played true to form in the final half to sweep their best-of-three title series.

"I have to credit the boys for their hard work and determination," said coach Jojo Imutan. "This is a great achievement for the boys and a great honor for the school."



MEMBERS of the Xavier team and manager Caesar Wongchuking celebrate their victory.

The Xavier boys, managed by sportsman Caesar Wongchuking, turned on the heat in the third period behind gunners Donald Ong and Brian Tan.

The school, which has produced a number of star players including Joseph Yeo, ruled the tournament without dropping a game.

In a show of force, Ong and Tan torched St. Stephen with 22 and 21 points, respectively. Geron Teng, son of former PBA star Alvin Teng, shone in the shaded lane and scored 10 points.

REUTERS

DEFENSIVE whiz Dennis Johnson

Five-time All-Star Johnson dies, 52

AUSTIN, TEXAS—DENNIS JOHNSON, a five-times All-Star who won three NBA titles, died from a heart attack aged 52 on Thursday, the league said on its website.

Johnson collapsed after leading a practice session for NBA Development League team the Austin Toros.

"He passed away this afternoon. This is a big loss for us," Toros vice president of sales Rick Epstein said.

One of the NBA's all-time great defensive guards, Johnson won a title with the Seattle SuperSonics in 1979 when he was named the finals MVP and two with the Boston Celtics in 1984 and 1986.

Averaging 14.1 points a game in a 13-year career including spells in Seattle, Phoenix and Boston, Johnson retired in 1990 as only the 11th player in NBA history to score more than 15,000 points and dish out 5,000 assists.

"Whether he was leading his teams to NBA championships or teaching young men the meaning of professionalism, Dennis Johnson's contributions to the game went far beyond the basketball court," NBA commissioner David Stern said in a statement.

"Dennis was a man of extraordinary character with a tremendous passion for the game and his loss will be felt throughout the basketball community."

Following his illustrious playing career which included nine straight selections to NBA all-defensive teams, Johnson remained with the Celtics as a scout and became an assistant coach in 1993.

Reuters

Bulls gore Cavs, snap losing run

NEW YORK—THE CHICAGO BULLS SNAPPED A SIX-GAME LOSING streak in Cleveland with an 84-78 victory over the Cavaliers on Thursday, Luol Deng leading the way for the visitors with 18 points.

The Bulls, who had lost five of six games heading into the All-Star break, turned in a solid effort and put the game away with a 14-5 run in the fourth quarter for a second straight victory.

Chicago also made all 12 shots from the free throw line while the Cavaliers, the NBA's worst free throw-shooting team, sank just eight of their 16 shots from the line.

Ben Wallace had 14 points, hauled down 19 rebounds and had a season-high seven blocks for the Bulls, and also made two crucial free throws late in the quarter to help seal the win.

Wallace is just a 41 percent shooter from the line.

"We did a great job of moving the ball around," Wallace told reporters.

"Everybody was playing together. When we play together like that and keep the game simple, good things usually happen to us."

Ben Gordon scored 16 points for the Bulls, while Kirk Hinrich added 11 points as Chicago shot 44 percent from the field to just 38 percent for the Cavs.

LeBron James led the Cavaliers with 29 points and seven rebounds, while Larry Hughes added 20 points and eight rebounds but Cleveland could not overcome the absence of several regulars.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas sat out a fourth straight game to attend to a family health matter and Sasha Pavlovic and Damon Jones missed the game due to illness.

The Bulls (31-25) pulled to within a game and a half of the second-place Cavaliers (32-23) in the Central Division standings with the win.

The Miami Heat returned to the arena where they won the NBA championship for the first time since taking the title last June, but were mauled by the Dallas Mavericks, 112-100.

Dirk Nowitzki had 31 points and 11 rebounds for the Mavs, while the Heat were without Dwyane Wade due to a shoulder injury.

Gilbert Arenas scored 43 points and Washington survived a video review at the buzzer to nip Sacramento, 109-106.

Reuters

LARRY Hughes of the Cleveland Cavaliers slaps the ball away from Ben Gordon (7) of the Chicago Bulls in the fourth quarter of their NBA game in Cleveland, Ohio. REUTERS

Tarlac hosts marathon's 4th qualifier

THE 31ST NATIONAL MILO MARATHON REturns to Tarlac City on Sunday for the fourth qualifying run of the 2007 season.

The top three male and female finishers in the 21K race shall earn tickets to the national finals slated on Nov. 18 in Metro Manila. They will also bring home trophies and cash prizes of P10,000 to the champions, P6,000 to the runners-up and P4,000 to the third placers.

Last year's 21K winners—Abraham Barcarse Jr. of Far Eastern University and Emma Mangago of University of the East—are expected to defend their respective titles.

Meanwhile, local organizers in Tarlac City headed by Arnold Rodriguez are targeting more than 10,000 participants for the third straight year. Last year, a total of 10,504 runners joined the races in the 3K, 5K and 21K distances.

Tarlac City Mayor Aro Mendoza and Vice Mayor Tess Cabal have been invited to fire the starting gun at 6 a.m. in front of the Tarlac City Hall .

Milo Sports Events Executive Pat Goc-ong is advising all runners to be at the starting area early for briefing and check-in.

After the Tarlac City leg, the 31st National Milo Marathon takes a summer break. It will resume on June 24 in General Santos City.

Aguilar heads Driver of Year 3 contenders

IT'S GOING TO BE A THREE-CORNERED race among Glenn Aguilar, Tyson Sy and Marlon Stockinger for the Golden Wheel International Driver of the Year award.

They were chosen from among 11 motorsports champions considered for the prestigious award set Feb. 28 at the Pagcor Theater-Airport Casino Filipino.

Aguilar, the 2006 national motocross champ, is eyeing his third Golden Wheel and his second straight International Driver plum after raising the country's flag high several times in last year's FIM-UAM Asian Supercross Championship series.

He shared the first Golden Wheel award with Formula 3 driver Pepon Marave and Asian Karting Queen Michele Bumgarner in 2004 and was hailed as the first Golden Wheel International Driver last year.

Sy, also nominated for the International Driver award last year, is tagged the strongest contender this time for his impressive showing in the 2006 Asian Formula 3 Series.

Stockinger, a newcomer in the International Driver category, has been joining karting competitions in Italy. His biggest feat, however, is in the Asian Karting Open Championships where he kept the championship belt for the Philippines after Michele Bumgarner held it from 2004 to 2006.

The final decision will be revealed on the awards night to be graced by the 11 champions, top motorsports officials and organizers.

Tiger Woods beats Clark in Match Play

TIGER WOODS: Playing better. REUTERS

MARANA, ARIZONA—THE omens looked even brighter for Tiger Woods on Thursday as he stayed firmly on course for an eighth successive PGA Tour title at this week's WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship.

The world number one, who trounced South Africa's Tim Clark 5&4 in the second round, was one of only two top-10 seeds to reach the third stage at Dove Mountain's Gallery Golf Club.

Twice champion Woods said his game had improved markedly from the opening day and few would bet against him closing to within three PGA Tour titles of Byron Nelson's all-time record on Sunday.

"I played better than I did yesterday, which is great, and tomorrow, hopefully, I can play even better than I did today," Woods told reporters after sealing victory at the par-three 14th.

"I played well today and put a lot of pressure on Timmy. I know Timmy is struggling right now, he's still a little bit hurt." Clark is playing his first event of the year after battling a neck injury.

"I just wanted to put as much pressure as I possibly could on him and not give him any holes with bogeys," added Woods, who set the tone by winning five of the first six holes.

"I made a few putts, which was nice, and Tim made a couple of mistakes, and I ended up having a pretty good-sized lead early in the match." Tournament champion in 2003 and 2004 when the event was played at La Costa Resort, Woods has not finished worse than second on the PGA Tour since the Western Open last July.

Only fellow American Nelson, who won 11 consecutive titles on the 1945 Tour, has produced a longer win streak.

Woods will, however, face an intriguing obstacle in Friday's third round in the shape of Australian left-hander Nick O'Hern, who beat South African Rory Sabbatini 2 and 1 on Thursday.

The last time the two met at the Accenture Match Play Championship, in the second round in 2005, O'Hern triumphed 3 and 1.

The straight-hitting Australian, although yet to win on the PGA Tour, is regarded as one of the best putters in the game.

"I'm sure he will take positive vibes from what he did the last time we played," Woods said. "But the whole idea is you've got to play well.

Rain and strengthening winds have been forecast for Friday, with a chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon.

Woods also knows, if he is to win this week's title, he is likely to play at least one average round out of five.

Woods and O'Hern are scheduled to start their third-round match at 1200 local (1900 GMT).

Reuters

Park, Prammanasudh share Fields lead; Delasin 5 behind

KAPOLEI, HAWAII—ROOKIE Angela Park shot a 6-under 66 in windy conditions for a share of the first-round lead with Stacy Prammanasudh in the Fields Open on Thursday.

Filipino-American Dorothy Delasin is in contention following a 71 (37-34) while Filipino Jennifer Rosales' bid is in jeopardy after a 74 (38-34).

The 18-year-old Park, making just her fourth US LPGA Tour start, showed maturity and composure in difficult conditions at the wide-open Ko Olina Golf Course.

Se Ri Pak, who needs to play just eight more events to qualify for the World Golf Hall of Fame this year, made a late move to open with a 67. Meaghan Francella survived a triple bogey and was at 68, along with Kyeong Bae.

Park started strong, birdieing five of the first seven holes and making the turn at 31. She drove into the rough for a bogey on No. 10, but hit a wedge to set up her 7-foot birdie putt on 14 and sank a 25-footer for birdie on the 16th to reach 6 under.

Park earned her first US LPGA paycheck last week—worth $6,625 (euro5,050)—for her 33rd-place tie at the season-opening SBS Open.

After a successful amateur career that included five American Junior Golf Association wins, Park earned her US LPGA Tour card by tying for fifth at Q-school.

Francella, who spent most of 2006 on the US Futures Tour, started on No. 10 and made the turn at 32.

The scoreboard incorrectly listed Francella at 69 and was corrected more than an hour after her round after she spotted the error on TV.

Jeong Jang, Jee Young Lee, Nicole Perrot and Pat Hurst shot 69s.

AP

Arroyo rules February NCA derby

REP. IGGY ARROYO, CHAMPION in the last National Cockers' Association World Championship Derby, won first place in the NCA derby held Feb. 20.

Arroyo has been the consistent solo winner of the recent NCA derbies. He is top favorite to become the 2007 NCA Cocker of the Year.

The NCA will hold its derby on March 8 at the Pasay City cockpit. This will be a 5-cock derby to be hosted by Manny Pacquiao and Gerry Ramos.

Former senator Ramon Revilla, Manny Pacquiao, Manolo Lopez, Gov. Ito Ynares, Jun Santiago, Edwin Abella, Boy Jiao, Chairman Rudy Albano, Danding Cojuanco, brothers Raffy and Mauro Prieto, JV Magsaysay, Baby Asistio, Johnny Jalandoni, Chring Magbuhos, Larry Mendoza, Joey Sarasola, Jun Marasigan, Bebot Uy, Edwin Javelosa, Randy Peralta, Jerry Barias, Tony Merfori, Johnny Lagbas, William Go, James Uy, and Essie Mallillin will field their aces in the NCA derby.

Bumgarner eyes Formula Atlantic

FOLLOWING HER IMPRESSIVE debut in the Asian Formula 3 last year, three-time Asian Karting champion Michele Bumgarner is keen on moving on to full-time single-seat formula racing this season.

The 17-year-old Bumgarner aims to invade the Formula Atlantic scene through the 1st Accelerate Annual Driver Shoot-out set Feb. 25 to March 4 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Accelerate is an entry level professional training series program intended to groom minority talents for the Champ Car Atlantic and World Series. The program is a brainchild of Gale Slayers (former NFL running back for Chicago Bears) and Ray Lewis (NFL linebacker for Baltimore Ravens), the primary owners of S&L Racing —the first minority-owned and driven team in the Champ Car World Series history.

S&L Racing is being assisted by world renowned Newman Wach Racing and has tapped partnerships with Karting Leagues and the Bob Bondurant Racing School to ensure the top level racing competence of minority drivers and crew talents.

After the training, Bumgarner will be considered to drive in the Champ Car Atlantic and World Series.

"We're very much excited about this program," said Bumgarner. "This is an entirely different venture, it's like starting all over again. But I will try my best to make the country proud as the first Filipina in the Formula Atlantic scene."

Bumgarner is being supported by Petron, Accel, Goodyear, Gold's Gym, City Kart Racing, Department of Tourism, Automobile Association Philippines, Oakley, Powerade. Solar Sports and Salon Prive for this endeavor.

Included in the Accelerate Drivers' Shoot-out are the Stock Cars Time Trials, Formula Car Training and Onsite Driver's Instruction and physical training.

MICHELE Bumgarner tests her Formula 3 car with Andy Deas, owner of the management company Strategic Asset Marketing which is now handling her motorsports career.

Asia at your fingertips

LIVING ASIA CHANNEL

Immense and largely untrodden, much of Asia remains fascinating and mysterious.

Living Asia Channel takes you around Asia to entrance you with the majesty of its temples and palaces, its mountains, coastlines and ancient jungles, its rich culture and warm, engaging people --- from the luxury of your living room.

Moving on to its 3rd year of quality broadcast, Living Asia Channel brings you more captivating stories and images that unravel Asia's best kept secrets.

DURIANS
ARE NOT
ALLOWED!

Living Asia Channel airs 24/7 all over the planet via cable, IPTV, VOD, and DTH.

Call your cable provider for a connection or log on to www.livingasiachannel.net for your IPTV or VOD link, or DTH configuration.

Dream 23 / SkyCable 99 / Home Cable 99 / Sun Cable 99 / Global Destiny 27
Sky Cable & Sun Cable 35 (CAMANAVA) / Cable Link 26 / Sun Vision 64
and all major cable systems nationwide

Come and meet the people behind the Living Asia Channel.
Log on to the Pond, your Asian travel & lifestyle blog community.
www.livingasiachannel.net/blog

LIVING ASIA

Knowing Asia

CCIAsiaGroup CCIAsia Television

www.livingasiachannel.net

BUSINESS
Website: www.inquirer.net/business
Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** • *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**
Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** business@inquirer.com.ph

Swabe ang dating, lakas ng hatak!
Max. Diesel Max.
PETRON DIESEL MAX

Aussie firm plans $1.5-B investment in RP

BHP Billiton pursues Mindanao nickel project

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST MINER, BHP BILLITON, MAY INvest up to $1.5 billion in a nickel project in Mindanao, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said yesterday.

"It could be anywhere from $800 million to $1.5 billion. That is the cost of setting up this operation and also the processing plant," Reyes told reporters after his meeting with BHP Billiton officers led by Philip Hopkins, group manager for regional development.

Billiton, in partnership with local firms Hallmark Mining Corp. and AustralAsia Link Mining Corp., is exploring a potentially large nickel deposit on an 11,799-hectare reservation in the Pujada peninsula in Davao Oriental.

A billion-dollar investment would be a major boost for the Philippines, which, despite record high metal prices, has had little success attracting big foreign miners due to legal uncertainties, political risk and opposition from pow-

AUSSIE/ B3

BSP to prepay more loans

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS has earmarked $805 million to pay more foreign debts ahead of maturity within the next two months to cut on interest expenses.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said the foreign loans to be settled would originally mature later this year up to next year. He added that the debt prepayment would yield $9 million in interest savings.

"The obligations to be prepaid include a $675-million loan due this September and $130 million in loans and floating rate notes with final maturity scheduled in April 2008," Tetangco said.

In 2006, the BSP retired $1.4 billion worth of foreign debts ahead of maturity, including the $220 million in remaining debt to the International Monetary Fund, which paved the way for the country's early exit from a post-program monitoring arrangement with the fund.

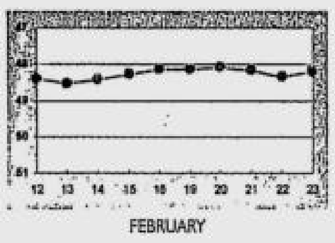
The prepayment of foreign debts is part of the BSP's policy mix to deal with strong capital inflows. The strategy also includes the recent liberalization of foreign exchange trading rules, the shift to local sources of financing and the building up of foreign reserves.

From January to Feb. 9 this year, net inflows of foreign portfolio investments reached $538.53 million, dwarfing the $130.67 million inflows a year ago. More significantly, remittances from

BSP/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



FEBRUARY

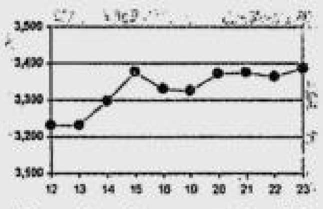
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱48.155 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 23, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

Stocks nearing all-time high

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.71-PERCENT higher yesterday on broad-based buying that propelled the key index to its best finish in a decade, dealers said.

They said the market was trying to break out of its consolidation phase, as the benchmark index flirted with the 3,400 resistance level throughout the session.

The composite index added 23.84 points to 3,389.37, after moving between 3,369.58 and 3,399.67.

It was the index's highest close since Feb. 5, 1997, when it settled at 3,396.04 points. The all-time high was 3,447.60, set on Feb. 3, 1997.

The broader all-share index rose 24.96 points to 2,172.78.

There were 97 gainers and 35 losers, while 12 stocks were unchanged.

A total of 10.6 billion shares worth P5.9 billion changed hands.

"(Thursday's) correction was viewed by some investors as enough for the market to continue its uptrend. But obviously there's strong resistance at the 3,400-point level," said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities.

The composite index pierced the 3,400 level on Wednesday but finished the session below that mark as profit-taking soon ensued.

Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities said foreign funds continued to pour in and that "excess liquidity" was being channeled to the equities market given the low yields on government securities.

Among the major index movers were the country's two biggest conglomerates—SM Investments, which rose P7.50 to P387.50, and Ayala Corp., up P10 at P620.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., or PLDT, advanced P15 to P2,610.

San Miguel A-shares were unchanged at P66.50, while its B-shares fell a peso to P77.50. *AFP*

Introducing Vitamin Oats!

Instant
Golden Oats Plus
Vitamin E
With Omega 3 6 9
Helps develop a better immune system and a healthier heart
No Cholesterol
Fiber-Rich

Golden Oats Plus.

It's a complete meal packed with essential vitamins and minerals.

Finally...a breakthrough in oats! Golden Oats Plus. Now fortified with vitamins and minerals that you get from fruits and vegetables. And because it's enriched with nutrients, Golden Oats Plus protects your body from diseases and keeps you looking young and strong everyday!

Golden Oats Plus comes in many vitamin-packed variants you can choose from.

Golden Oats Plus
Vitamin E
Golden Oats Plus
Golden Oats Plus
Chocolate
Instant
Golden Oats Plus
Calcium Folate
Golden Oats Plus
Golden Oats
Instant
Golden Oats

Also comes in single-serve, 35 gram packs. Golden Oats and Golden Oats Plus are available at all Mercury Drug stores and leading supermarkets nationwide.

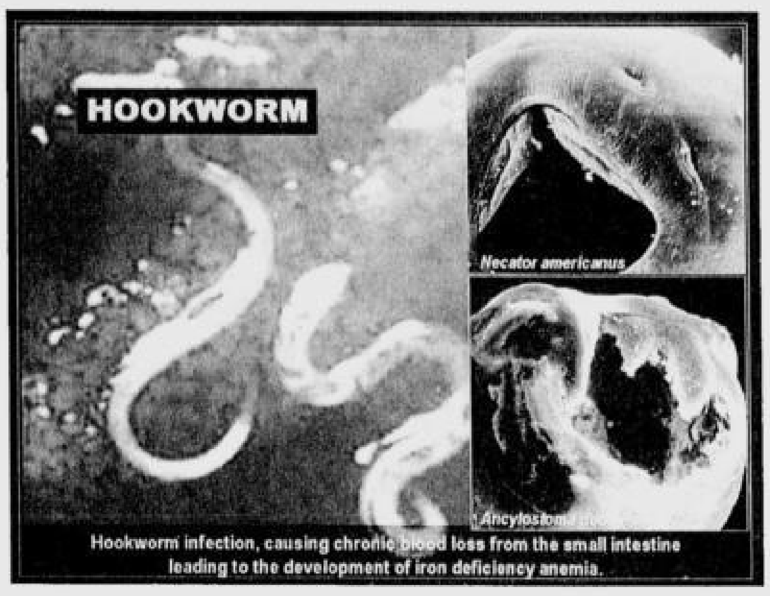
SCIENCE/HEALTH

E-mail: pr_science_health@inquirer.com.ph

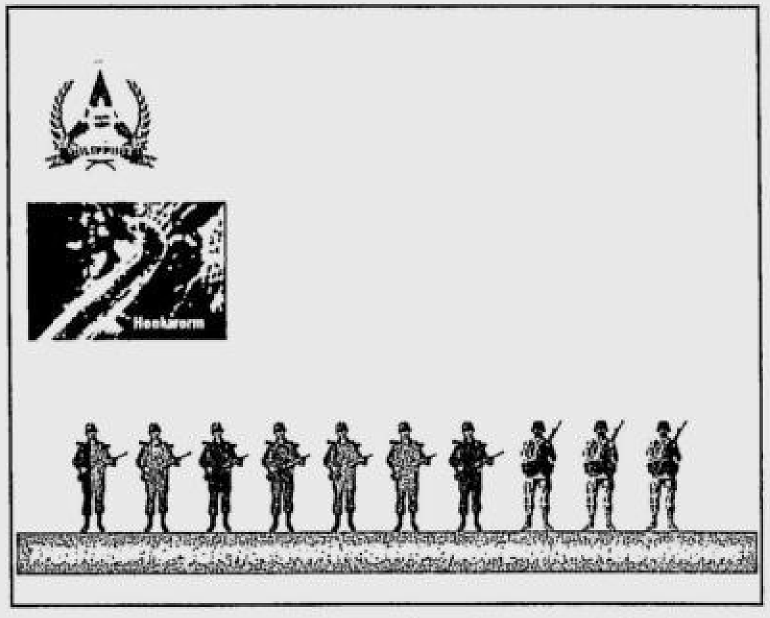
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Text us your feedback: inquirer hea name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

7 out of 10 soldiers in Isabela suffer from worm infection



Hookworm infection, causing chronic blood loss from the small intestine leading to the development of iron deficiency anemia.



By Tessa R. Salazar

SEVEN OUT OF 10 Filipino soldiers in Gamu, Isabela are afflicted with different types of parasitic worms, as revealed in a 2005 survey done by the University of the Philippines' National Institutes of Health and College of Public Health.

The survey examined 207 volunteer enlisted personnel and Civilian Active Auxiliary Corps (formerly Cafgu) units at the 5th infantry division military camp in Gamu, Isabela Province. The soldiers in the camp are deployed in areas around Region 2.

Hookworms infected 55 percent of CAAC and 26 percent of enlisted personnel while 15 percent were afflicted with whipworm and 10 percent were afflicted with ascaris.

The subjects' ages ranged from 20 to over 50 years old.

The NIH's tropical diseases study group of UP Manila revealed that those afflicted with worms may not necessarily exhibit potbellies. Dr. Vicente Y. Belizario, parasitologist of UP NIH and College of Public Health, also said that 47 percent of soldiers stationed in Northern Luzon were actually found to harbor hookworms.

He added that there has been no data available with soldiers assigned to Mindanao, which is considered the most worm-infested region in the country.

So, how did these soldiers get the worms? One culprit may be the traditional "boodle fight." Add to that the nature of everyday living of soldiers in the field.

Dr. Lulu Bravo, vice chancellor and executive director of the UP National Institutes of Health in Manila said people exposed to the soil are vulnerable to helminths. This risk is significantly increased with people eating with their bare hands. She recommended soldiers to be evaluated and dewormed every six months. She also said, however, that the government most likely has no deworming program for its soldiers.

Deworming

Bravo added that a deworming program is important to halt the complications of worm infestations among humans. Persons infested with worms can suffer from malnutrition, decreased concentration and other serious complications like pancreatitis.

The top brass at the Armed Forces of the Philippines, however, does not see any clear and present danger of parasitism among its ranks.

Brig. Gen. Rafael Regino, surgeon general of the AFP, said that nothing in the statistics of admitted and out-patient soldiers in Gamu, Isabela show worm infestation.

He added that the leading causes of illnesses do not include parasitism. He said the top 10 causes of diseases from January to December 2006 are acute gastroenteritis, influenza, typhoid fever, peptic ulcer disease, malaria, upper respiratory tract infection, hypertensive cardiovascular disease, urinary tract infection, acute tonsilopharyngitis (nonspecific) and osteoarthritis.

Parasites

Hookworms, in particular, can easily enter the body, through the unbroken skin of an unprotected foot. They enter the barefoot skin and they end up in the blood stream, in the lungs causing respiratory manifestations like coughing or difficulty of breathing and end up in small intestines where they are actually "hooked" biting on to the intestinal mucosa.

"A hookworm is a blood sucker. It latches on to your small intestines. The person becomes anemic and weak and probably even sickly as a result of that hookworm," Belizario says.

Hookworm can remove between .38 and .84 ml of blood per day excluding the blood loss from injury to the intestinal mucosa.

Roughly a person needs at least 100 hookworms to produce anemia in adults—the more the hookworms, the shorter the time to develop anemia.

Hookworm infection causes chronic blood loss, leading to the development of iron deficiency anemia.

Hookworms can also cause moderate to severe abdominal pain and diarrhea.

Whipworms and roundworm eggs can be picked up by bare hands, which, if unwashed, can enable the eggs to be ingested.

A person infected with large roundworm (Ascaris lumbricoides) will also experience abdominal pains, malnutrition, cough and intestinal obstruction that can become a medical emergency.

Ascaris, one of the two most common intestinal helminths in the Philippines, causes intestinal perforation. Ascaris worms can also be found in the liver.

A person infected with whipworm *(Trichuris trichiura)* will also experience abdominal pain. Trichuris worms can also be found in the colon. They could also cause a prolapse of the rectum.

A person infected with pinworms *(Enterobius vermicularis)* can also be irritable, and experience anal pruritis and anorexia.

P30 a year

Belizario estimated that on a per person basis, a deworming drug would cost P30 per year to keep that person free from worms for a year.

"Commercially available deworming drugs can range from P8 to P60. There are generic drugs from India that cost P8 each. The World Health Organization or Unicef can buy drugs for 2 cents (P1) per tablet," he enumerated.

Intestinal helminthiasis is considered a major public health problem of the developing world. About 2 billion around the world are chronically infected with intestinal helminths.

At least 20 million Filipinos may be chronically infected with intestinal helminths.

---

100 years of healing and saving lives

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

DR. AGNES MEJIA, WHO chairs the Department of Medicine of the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital, recently sent me a copy of "Hands, Hearts and Minds," the centennial commemorative book prepared by her department. It's an elegant addition to the stack of books on our living room coffee table.

It's 100 years now since the department of medicine of the UP-PGH was first established. From it graduated hundreds of trained internists who have excelled as medical practitioners in various fields of internal medicine both here and abroad.

"We strive to mold graduates with competence and conscience," says Dr. Mejia. "We cannot dictate where they will find fulfillment; we can only hope that much of it would come from caring for patients, and from serving a country in need of their talent."

Selfless service

The book chronicles the department's growth from a single unit in 1907 with a staff of three, to an academic and training network of 13 subspecialty sections 100 years hence, with one of the biggest faculties of specialist internists, many of whom are working without compensation (WOC). These doctors serve the indigent patients at UP-PGH and train the residents out of sheer passion and conviction for the job. They really do as they preach and they walk their WOC.

"The book is really about the flame of selfless service that cannot be smothered," says Dr. Rogie Tanco, the centennial book's editor. "It's also the flame that illuminates the desperate lives of patients whose families pin their slim hopes on the hands, hearts and minds of our physicians."

But skilled hands, kind hearts and brilliant minds alone cannot save lives. Time and again at PGH, doctors watch helplessly as patients, who could still be saved, die just because the patients' respective families have no means of paying for the necessary procedures or buying life-saving medications. Disgust is too benign a term to describe the feeling of many doctors when they're confronted with such cases, knowing fully well that hundreds of millions of taxpayers' money are squandered in corruption and meaningless projects of some politicians. If this money were put to good use at government hospitals like PGH, tens of thousands of breadwinners, or mothers of big families, or children who would have been potential leaders in the future would probably be still alive.

Saving lives

The Sagip-Buhay, literally "to save lives," which was formed as a foundation in 1995, helps address this dire problem for the indigent medical cases at PGH. To date, it has helped thousands of indigent patients with life-saving procedures and medicines. The doctors themselves contribute to or help raise funds through solicitations from the pharmaceutical and other big companies. Anonymous philanthropists have also contributed to the foundation.

But with its limited funds, the foundation can't possibly accommodate all requests for assistance. Priority is given to breadwinners and to those who have a good chance of recovering and returning as productive members of the community. "We not only save the patient's life, but also the well-being of the patient's family," says Dr. Mejia.

Raise funds

The goal of Sagip-Buhay is to be able to raise enough funds, so it would be able to assist all those who knock on its doors for help. Every peso raised counts and with more funds raised, more lives can be saved. "Our dream is to never lose a patient only because he was too poor to pay for the procedures and to buy the medications," says Dr. Rody Sy, the foundation's chief fund-raiser and financial strategist.

More dreams can be made a reality with Sagip-Buhay. And it's good to know that people like you and me can help in our own small way so more dreams, more lives, more hopes can be made real. For those who wish to purchase the commemorative book, the proceeds of which go to Sagip-Buhay or for those who wish to help the foundation in whatever way, you may text 0919-3298887 or 0917-8868409 or you may e-mail medicine-pgh@cm.upm.edu.ph.

The Philippines and the Cartagena protocol

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

CONTINUING ON FROM LAST WEEK'S column on living modified organisms (LMOs) and the extent to which each nation has chosen to abide by the Cartagena protocol, well over a decade ago, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was finalized three years after the original meeting held in Cartagena, Colombia. The goal of the CBD itself is twofold: 1) to provide "for the access to and transfer of technologies...that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity"; and 2) to "seek to ensure the development of appropriate procedures to enhance the safety of biotechnology in the context of the Convention's overall goal of reducing all potential threats to biological diversity, taking also into account the risks to human health."

As part of this consideration, the Cartagena protocol was drafted in 2000 to deal with biosafety issues with regard to the use and movement of any LMOs across borders that may negatively impact the existing environment's natural biodiversity. According to the protocol, biosafety is defined as "the need to protect human health and the environment from the possible adverse effects of the products of modern biotechnology. The text from the protocol's introduction implies that these are general guidelines to help participating nations determine how they should deal with LMOs rather than hard and fast rules.

Delay in ratification

The protocol took effect in September 2003; as of Feb. 19, 2007, 139 nations had ratified the document. The Philippines just ratified the document last October, despite having been an original signatory back in 2000. The delay was partly due to discussions over whether or not the Cartagena protocol was even necessary given the Philippines' existing policies on biosafety.

The National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines (NCBP), created by then President Aquino, released guidelines for controlled experiments involving genetically modified organisms (GMOs) back in 1991. [Note: as the Philippine regulations reference GMOs rather than LMOs, this term is unchanged in succeeding paragraphs citing these documents.] Among the projects overseen by the NCBP was the growth of Monsanto-developed Bt corn, into which a bacterial gene has been inserted so that the corn can produce a toxin that kills the corn borers that can significantly reduce the crop yield.

Strong supporter

The Arroyo government has been a strong supporter of biotechnology, with the president herself even invoking the Vatican back in 2003, claiming the Church had said that GMOs are not immoral. Last year's Executive Order 514, which adopted the National Biosafety Framework and was created to support the NCBP, and Administrative Order No. 8, which was released in April 2002 and modified early last year, reiterate the government's plan to "promote the safe and responsible use of modern biotechnology...as one of the several means to achieve and sustain food security, equitable access to health services, sustainable and safe environment and industry development." Several House and Senate bills regarding GMOs however, are more cautious reminders to protect and conserve the current plant varieties in light of the expected influx and development of LMOs, and to require appropriate labeling for any genetically modified food products.

Given the existing regulations and the Philippines' own declared need for transparency in any government decisions regarding LMOs and biotechnology, it is clear that for any genetically modified product advocated, the risk assessments involved in these decisions will also need to be made public in order for the information to be processed and (hopefully better) understood. This is not as simple as it sounds, as other countries well know. Next week's column will be a discussion of how Japan, Canada and the United States are handling the Cartagena protocol and the issue of LMOs.

* * *

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

Ateneo High School Math Olympiad

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

"BEFORE ROMANIA WAS KNOWN FOR ITS gymnasts, like Nadia Comaneci, it was known for its math problem solvers," Ateneo president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, SJ, states. "Romania and other countries like China and Hungary have long had a tradition of problem solving." This tradition was honed by several kinds and levels of competitions, from those in schools and small towns to regions and cities, and finally among countries.

To help develop a culture of problem solving, Fr. Nebres spearheaded the Ateneo Math Olympiad (AMO) five years ago. For the entire year, volunteer coaches, all of them college students from the Ateneo de Manila University, train some of our best grade school and high school children. To showcase what they have learned, our students compete among themselves and against other students trained by the Mathematics Trainers Guild in the AMO. The AMO Grade School competition was held in early February, while its High School counterpart had the final round last Monday, Feb. 19, at the High School Covered Courts.

On behalf of Fr. Nebres, I would like to thank the Ateneo college faculty, the Ateneo High School math faculty, the Ateneo Problem Solvers Group and the Ateneo Math Society for making the AMO a success.

Individual round

The individual round of the AMO is patterned after the International Math Olympiad (IMO). Contestants are given three hours to solve three challenging problems, and solutions are scored based on correctness, elegance clarity. Dr. Jose Marasigan, coach of the Philippine team to the IMO, served as chief judge.

This was one of the problems the freshmen and sophomores had to solve:

Determine all functions f defined for all real numbers and taking real numbers as their values, such that $f(x) + xf(1 - x)$ = x squared - 1, for all x.

There was no gold medalist for this round, but silver medalists were Kevin Catbagan (Ateneo de Manila), Mikhael Llado (Ateneo de Manila), Aileen Giselle Chu (Grace Christian High School) and Carlo Francisco Adajar (Paref Southridge School). Bronze medalists were Geraldine Baniqued (St. Paul Pasig), Marquis Tan (Xavier School), Immanuel Encarnacion (Philippine Science High School) and Aldric Reyes (Chiang Kai Shek College).

Among the juniors and seniors, the gold medalist was Daniel Andrew Tan (Grace Christian). Stephanie Oliveros (Philippine Science), Joanna Tan (Jubilee Christian Academy) and Paul Julian Hao (Chiang Kai Shek) were awarded silver medals. Miguel Alexander Ty (Ateneo), Jose Francisco Oracion (Ateneo) and Kevin Jonathan Dy (St. Stephen's High School) got bronze medals.

Group round

The mechanics of the group round are reminiscent of many local contests, where speed is of the essence. Here contestants solve easy, moderate and difficult questions for 15, 30 and 60 seconds each. Afterward for 15 minutes, they try their best to write a detailed answer for a challenging question.

Samples of questions in the group round are:

1. (EASY) Pedro and Sammy have pocket money in the ratio 3:5/ Each one spends 30 pesos. The ratio changes to 1:2/ How much pocket money does Pedro have at the start?

Answer: 90 pesos

2. (MODERATE) It takes one man one day to dig a 2 meter by 2 meter by 2 meter hole. How long does it take three men working at the same rate to dig a four-meter by four-meter by four-meter hole?

Answer: two and two-thirds days

3. (DIFFICULT) The sum of four numbers is 64. If three is added to the first number, three is subtracted from the second number, the third number is multiplied by three, and the fourth number is divided by three, then all the results will be equal. What is the difference between the largest and the smallest of the original numbers?

Answer: 31

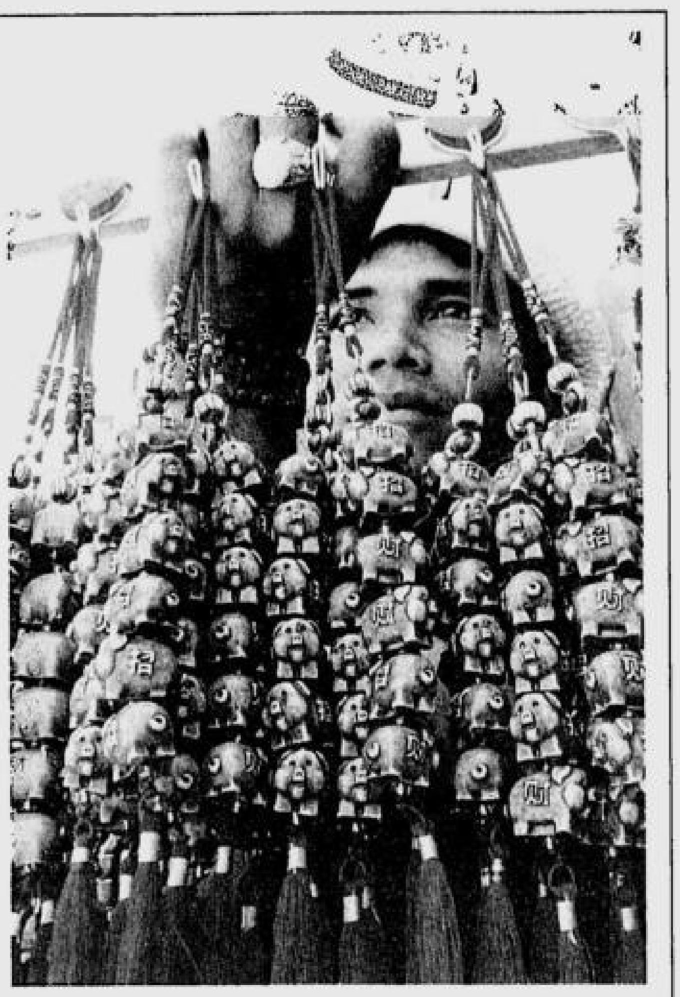
The winners of the group round were Paul Julian Hao, with Ateneo teammates Ross Valentin Canseco and John Xavier Valdes. In second place were Carlo Francisco Adajar, with Ateneo teammates Gabriel Layugan and Miguel Alexander Ty. Immanuel Encarnacion, with Ateneo teammates Diogo Moitinho de Almeida and Miguel Isidro Carino were in third place.

Congratulations!

* * *

Queena N. Lee-Chua is a professor of mathematics and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. E-mail her at blessbook@yahoo.com.

Gov't to make up for last year's low spending



PORCINE CHARMERS Johnny Rey Bareng, 26, is selling these pig images carved out of amber for P20 apiece. In Baguio City, woodcarvers and merchants came up with these charmers to mark the Chinese year of the fire boar.
EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

In '07, officials not keen on reducing budget deficit

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT INCLINED to cut its budget deficit this year to a level lower than last year's P62.2 billion, saying the economy needs to recuperate from the low spending in 2006 that restrained economic growth.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said the government would only observe the P63-billion deficit ceiling programmed for 2007 and not aim for a lower deficit figure.

"We (the government) don't want to tighten spending any further," Andaya said, noting that the economy would not gain much with a greatly reduced budget gap.

He said the government would need to engage in pump-priming this year after it was hampered from doing so in 2006.

The government last year, had intended to pump-prime the economy by maximizing spending allowed under the 2006 fiscal program. But it was not able to do so due to Congress' failure to pass the proposed 2006 national budget of P1.053 trillion.

The government then had to operate using a reenacted budget from 2005, which was about P100 billion lower.

In October, Congress approved a P46.9-billion supplemental budget, but economic managers said the incremental funds came too late to finance infrastructure-related programs.

The supplemental budget was thus used to pay liabilities of line agencies, including overdue premiums to the Government Service Insurance System.

Economic managers said the economy could have grown higher last year had Congress approved the proposed national budget.

The economy, as measured by its gross domestic product, grew in 2006 by 5.4 percent from the previous year, falling short of the 5.5 percent target.

Operating on a reenacted budget consequently led to a lower-than-programmed deficit last year.

The budget gap last year hit only P62.2 billion, much lower than the P125-billion ceiling stated under the fiscal program for 2006.

Last year's deficit was already lower than the ceiling of P63 billion for 2007, but Andaya said the government was not looking at reducing the deficit target for this year.

He said the government wanted to maximize spending, especially for infrastructure-related projects this year.

Earlier, the government announced plans to spend P528 billion more for infrastructure over the medium term to boost economic growth.

Andaya said the amount would come from expected savings this year and the next few years resulting from factors like declining interest rate and appreciation of the peso, among others.

A drop in interest rate reduces the government's cost of borrowings, while an appreciation of the local currency trims the peso value of its foreign-denominated debts.

The Department of Budget and Management earlier drafted a budget program until 2010. But the program was made when interest rates were still higher and the peso was weaker. Interest rate and exchange rate movements, therefore, would result in savings.

The government has set a goal of increasing its spending on infrastructure over the medium term to 5 percent of its gross domestic product to be at par with its counterparts in the Southeast Asian region.

Currently, the Philippine government's spending for infrastructure is below 3 percent of GDP. Poor infrastructure has often been cited a major factor that discourages the entry of foreign investments, restraining economic growth.

Petroleum firm set on holding maiden offer

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

DAVAO-BASED OIL COMPANY PHOENIX Petroleum Philippines Inc. is hoping to raise as much as P288 million from a public offer in the middle of the year to take advantage of the spike in the market, according to the firm's top official.

Philippine Stock Exchange president Francis Lim said Phoenix Petroleum yesterday filed its application for an initial public offer.

Its offer size ranges from P192 million to P288 million.

Phoenix Petroleum is a company registered with the Board of Investments.

Phoenix Petroleum president Dennis Uy said the proceeds would fund the company's plan to put up additional retail stations and depot facilities in Mindanao and Luzon.

Phoenix Petroleum will offer 29 to 40 million shares at P6 to P10 apiece.

It has tapped BDO Capital to manage its public offer.

Phoenix Petroleum's total assets are estimated at P500 million.

Its biggest shareholder is Phoenix Petroleum Holdings, owned by the Uy family.

"Since we are a BOI-registered company, it is our mandate to list in three years," Uy said.

"Now is the right time to list, given the market conditions. (We hope) to broaden our shareholder base and raise some funds for our expansion projects."

Phoenix Petroleum opened its first gas station in June 2005 in Davao del Sur.

Today, it has more than 20 retail service stations.

By end-2007, 30 more will be added, bringing the total number of retail service stations to 50, the company said in a statement.

Phoenix Petroleum is a Davao-based corporation and is a member of The Udena Group of Companies—a low profile conglomerate with various business interests in Mindanao and Manila.

Lanao firm seeks $300M to build hydropower plant

By Abigail L. Ho

LANAO HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT Corp. is currently in talks with four foreign investors and a number of lenders to secure the more than $300 million it needs to bankroll the construction of the 225-megawatt (MW) Agus 3 hydropower plant.

In a recent interview, Lanao Hydro chair Saidamen Pangarungan said the company was in serious discussions with possible partners, all foreign companies, for the project.

One of the investors already has an existing business in the country, he said.

Based on how talks were going, Pangarungan said Lanao Hydro should be able to sign with at least one partner by June.

Apart from the prospective investors, he said the company was also talking to some multilateral and private lenders to provide 70 percent of Agus 3's total project cost, including interest during construction.

The direct project cost, he related, came up to around $261 million. Including interest during construction, the total project cost would likely zoom past the $300-million mark.

Construction should start by December, Pangarungan said.

Lanao Hydro will be constructing the Agus 3 hydropower plant under a joint sales agreement (JSA) with the National Power Corp.

Napocor said that the JSAs are nonexclusive, and that any party interested in building merchant plants in the Visayas and Mindanao grids, where there is a need for new power generation capacities, is welcome.

SM group to restructure EPCIB, convert non-core assets to cash

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SM GROUP HAS MAPPED OUT A CORporate restructuring plan for Equitable PCI Bank, which includes the sale of non-core assets, to clear the way for its consolidation with Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, EPCIBank said its board of directors had approved the disposal of its equity investments in certain publicly listed and non-listed corporations, as well as the dissolution of certain non-operating, non-stock companies.

The board also approved the hiring of a broker to handle the equity placement of listed shares and the engagement of an investment manager to implement the sale of non-listed shares.

"(The plan is to) convert a lot of these noncore assets into cash, and what we'll do is to convert them to core assets in the form of loans and securities," said Nestor Tan, concurrent president of BDO and EPCIBank. "This will have a positive impact on our bottomline."

In an interview yesterday, Tan confirmed that the bank would sell shares in certain publicly listed mining and holding companies.

He also identified the non-listed assets, which include portfolio investments, foreclosed pieces of property, and other assets acquired as "dacion en pago" or "payments-in-kind."

"(The assets) were acquired over a long period of time," Tan explained. "For some of them, the values have gone up, and it's a good time to get rid of these assets."

EPCI Bank said that after the regulatory bodies approved the merger of the two banks, officials would proceed with the consolidation and integration of their respective subsidiaries: Equitable Exchange Inc. and EBC Investments Inc.; as well as PCI Automation Center Inc. and Equitable Data Center.

Investment banking subsidiaries PCI Capital Corp. and EBC Capital Corp. will also be integrated into Banco de Oro EPCI Inc.

The board also adopted a resolution streamlining membership of the bank's board advisory committee from six to five, effective immediately.

London-based credit rating agency Fitch Ratings yesterday said the merger between Banco do Oro Universal Bank and Equitable PCIBank would catapult the combined entity into a "real force" in the years ahead.

Through numerous acquisitions, Fitch said that BDO had grown rapidly in recent years to become one of the country's major banks, controlling 7.7 percent of system-assets on a stand-alone, or parent-bank, basis.

The merger of equals is expected to be completed this quarter, pending the necessary regulatory approvals. Together, the two banks will form the country's second largest bank with P615 billion in combined assets, accounting for 16 percent of commercial bank system assets.

A how to's course for brokers, land owners, investors & developers!!
JOINT VENTURES IN REAL ESTATE PROJECTS
Mar 7, 1:30-6 pm, 2nd Flr, Max's Rest., near Glorietta 2, Ayala Cntr, Mkti
Covers the importance of Joint Ventures & Syndications in the economy; reasons for a JV; how to package a JV proposal; important provisions in a joint venture agreement & examples; sharing schemes; what is to be shared; what to watch out & frauds by developers & landowners; how to protect landowners & developers; other concepts & forms of JV & others
For more details, call 681-0928 or email: urbanet@pacific.net.ph
Or simply text your name, fax no. or email address to CP# 0916-426-9174
URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE

Robinsons Bank
Peso Time Deposit

TERM	INTEREST RATES per annum
1 year	5.0%
3 years	5.5%
5 years	6.0%

* Net of Documentary Stamp Taxes
* Gross of W/holding Taxes except for 5+1 yr term
* Monthly Interest Crediting for 5+1 yr term
* Subject to change w/out prior notice

For a LOW Minimum Deposit of ₱25,000

Loan Available for up to 90% of deposit and may also be used to secure a Robinsons Store Card.

Visit or call your nearest Robinsons Bank branch now! With 3 new branches to serve you in Marikina, Bonifacio Global City and Valenzuela.

For more information call Tel. No. 631-8888 or 1-800-10-631-8888 for toll free Provincial calls!

RobinsonsBank A Savings Bank
Where Your Hard-earned Money Grows.
RobinsonsBank 24/7 ATM
A JG Summit Company

Member Megalink and PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor 250,000.00.

Aussie firm plans $1.5-B investment in RP

From page B1

erful bishops and environmentalists.

Current estimates of the project's nickel deposit, based on more than 600 drill holes, are about 150 million metric tons at 1.3-percent nickel. The project is scheduled to start construction in 2010, project documents showed.

Reyes also said Billiton was in preliminary talks with two local miners, including Benguet Corp. about another nickel project in Zambales province.

BHP Billiton is currently the world's biggest diversified resources company and listed both in the Australian and London stock markets.

The company has a market capitalization of $118 billion in 2006 and has 38,000 employees in more than 100 operations in 25 countries worldwide, the company said in its website.

"The company has conducted extensive exploration mapping and drilling in these areas and has initially invested some P78 million," Reyes said. The DENR has estimated that the country has $1 trillion in unexplored copper, gold, nickel and zinc.

The Philippine mining sector was once one of the world's biggest before falling into decline in the 1980s due to neglect, environmental mishaps and clashes over land ownership, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau said in a report.

Nickel, which adds strength and sheen to stainless steel, is one of the strongest performing metals this year on the London Metal Exchange due to tight supply and demand from resource-hungry China.

Global prices of nickel have soared almost 20 percent so far this year, hitting a new high of $40,250 a ton on Wednesday, helped by supply shortage.

BSP to prepay more loans

From page B1

overseas Filipino workers are hitting all-time highs, exceeding $1 billion in the last eight months of 2006.

This developed as the fresh foreign exchange liberalization measures approved by the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board, which will take effect on April 2, triggered volatility at the peso-dollar market yesterday. The local currency traded between 48.145 and 48.30 against the dollar before closing at 48.155, stronger than Thursday's finish of 48.30:$1.

On Thursday, the BSP approved an increase in banks' allowable foreign currency purchases as a share of unimpaired capital—known as the overbought limit—to a pre-Asian crisis ratio of 20 percent of unimpaired capital or $50 million, whichever is lower. The increase in the overbought cap was matched by a 20 percent (of unimpaired capital) or $50-million whichever-is-lower limit on the oversold position or the amount of dollars that banks are allowed to sell in the open market.

"This move is more similar to the relaxation of resident foreign investment rules that took place in Korea in December; quite the opposite of the capital controls imposed in Thailand the same month. We do not expect the BSP to adopt Thai-like capital controls if the peso continues to strengthen," said UBS analyst Philip Wyatt.

The overbought limit was earlier tightly set by the BSP at 2.5 percent of unimpaired capital or $5 million, whichever was lower, while there was no limit on the oversold position.

"All these are aimed at slowing the peso's strength, within market-driven methods, in our view," said Jojo Gonzales, an analyst at stock brokerage Philippine Equity Partners.

"The measures demonstrate the government's preoccupation with having to deal with having the rest of the world wanting to lend you too much money. The measures do nothing to alter that," ING Bank analyst Tim Condon said.

"We expect the authorities will, like their counterparts in the rest of the region, continue to open up the capital account in an effort to get the excess supply of US dollars offshore in order to slow the peso appreciation," he said.

FREE INVESTORS SEMINAR
Wednesday to Saturday at 2:00 pm

₱60 MILLION WORTH OF COMMISSIONS
to be given away in the next 6 months!!!
HOW? EASY!
We will show you how to save **40% off the usual price of a condo** thru the BUILD-YOUR-OWN Method and at the same time earn lots of commission.
WHAT'S MORE?
Now is the best time to invest in real estate and the best place is at Bonifacio Global City.
BUT WAIT!
Due to popular demand, we have
LIMITED SEATS ONLY...
So hurry and give us a call for a reservation at:
815-8080 / 0917-5310551 / 0928-5020333 / 0928-2453646 / 0917-9439382 / 0915-4006423

FIRST GLOBAL BYO CORP.
Fort Bonifacio Stop Over corner 32nd St. & Rizal Drive
Global City (between Starbucks & Jollibee)

Free snacks and gifts for the first 30 guests.
Brokers, sales agents, businessmen and professionals are all WELCOME to attend.

RCM RETURNS TO THE PHILIPPINES

Exciting CAREERS begin with US!

At Our Recruitment Seminars in the Philippines!

Hires from our '06 Job Fair

RCM Healthcare Services, a premier provider of Health Care Professionals for all Major Hospitals, Long Term Care Facilities, Clinics and Schools in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Washington, D.C., will be looking for **qualified nurses, occupational therapists and physical therapists.**

VISA Retrogression is not slowing us down!
We are your company... before, now and after!

Registered Nurses
- CGFNS or NCLEX exam passers
- IELTS or TOEFL exam passers

Physical Therapists
- NPTE exam passers
- TOEFL exam passers

Occupational Therapists
- NBCOT exam passers

We encourage you to bring your family members to attend our Job Fairs and get to know us!

If you're qualified, please join any of the series of recruitment seminars RCM has prepared for you in:

City	Venue	Date	Time
Manila	New World Hotel	Feb. 24 - 25 March 10	10a-4p
Baguio	Prince Plaza Hotel	Feb. 26	2p-7p
Angeles City	Holiday Inn	Feb. 27	12p-5:30p
Cebu	Marriott Hotel	March 3 - 4	10a-4p
Davao	Marco Polo Hotel	March 10 -11	10a-4p

IMPORTANT! Please don't forget to bring all of the following:

- Visa Screen Certification
- PRC License
- TOEFL/TSE/IELTS/CGFNS Exam Passers
- NCLEX/NBCOT/NPTE Exam Passers
- 3 copies 2" x 2" id photos
- Detailed resume
- Transcript of records
- Diploma
- 2 reference letters
- Birth Certificate
- Copy of Passport

FREE Immigration fees! • FREE Lawyer's Fees! • Paid Vacation/Time Off!
FREE Airfare! • 2 Months FREE Housing! • EXCELLENT SALARIES with Raises!
Personalized Support before and after arrival in the U.S.! • Great Benefits Package!

U.S. Contact

RCM Health Care Services
Committed to Caring

989 Avenue of the Americas
16th Floor, New York, NY 10018
Ph: 212-221-1544 • Fax: 212-869-4549
E-mail: PhilRecruit@rcmt.com
www.rcmhealthcare.com

Philippine Contact

John Clements Consultants, Inc.
partnering for people excellence

Level 12B, LKG Tower
6801 Ayala Ave., Makati City 1226
Call Cris Mercado at (02) 884-1227
E-mail: ihc@johnclements.com
www.johnclements.com

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, LOCAL GOVERNANCE, AGRI-BUSINESS, EDUCATION, COMMUNICATIONS, REINTEGRATION OF EX-COMBATANTS AND PROJECT ADMINISTRATION EXPERTS

Chemonics International **(www.chemonics.com)** seeks experts in the fields of community and mid-scale infrastructure, export and investment promotion, business development, local governance, agri-business, education, workforce development, communications and the reintegration of ex-combatants for long and short-term assignments under an anticipated five-year USAID project in Mindanao, Philippines.

Minimum Qualifications:
- Five years experience in fields listed above. Experience working with USAID or other donors preferred.
- Advanced degree in agribusiness, business, law, governance, economics, public administration/finance or related field preferred.
- Five years of relevant experience in the Philippines or Southeast Asia. Experience in Mindanao preferred.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills in English and Filipino.

Project administration candidates are also sought to support project technical activities. Experience in the following fields is desired: operations management, communications, monitoring and evaluation, training, finance and accounting, grants management, procurement and information technology.

Qualifications:
- Five years experience working on donor projects in fields listed above.
- USAID related procurement and contracting experience preferred.
- Five years of relevant experience in the Philippines or Southeast Asia.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills in English and Filipino.

We also recruit short-term consultants and specialists in free-port zone development, port operations and improvement and conflict resolution.

Please send a chronological CV, 3-4 references and a brief cover letter to philrecruit2@chemonics.com by March 9, 2007.
Specify position in email subject line.

Final candidates will be contacted for interviews.

LEARN FROM MY MISTAKE, STOP SOFTWARE PIRACY NOW

Our company is engaged in the sale of goods and services of second-hand computer hardware and software as well as information technology related products.

In the past, we sold second-hand computer hardware loaded with unlicensed computer programs without the requisite end-user license and accompanying documentation and original CD-ROM. We recognize that such practice violates intellectual property laws and is subject to criminal, civil and administrative penalties – and we apologize to consumers who may in turn be implicated, as users of unlicensed software are likewise at risks of criminal, civil and administrative actions.

We undertake that we will never engage in the sale of computers, either brand new or second-hand, installed with pirated or illegal software to customers.

We support the thrust of the Philippine government in developing the Information Technology industry; vital to the development of this industry is the respect for Intellectual Property rights and laws. We encourage all businesses engaged in the sale of computer software products to comply with all laws on Intellectual Property.

Lastly, we support the efforts of the Philippine government in enforcing these laws to curb piracy. In effect, this will stimulate a healthy growth of honest computer builders, system builders, and resellers in the country.

Signed by:

Cecilia Ogoc
Managing Director
FASTWIN TRADING, INC.
Hi-way Subangdaku, Mandaue City

(PDI – February 24, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1) Nenita Orrolino	Unknown	Apolinar Abenojar SS#03-3382149-3	June 17, 2005
2) Susan Mildred Alviola	Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya	Emilio Alviola, Jr. SS#03-0708841-1	March 28, 2005
3) Lorna Aseniero	9066 Rosal St., Dongalo, Paranaque, MM	Ruben A. Aseniero SS#08-0209891-9	November 19, 2006
4) Renia S. Domingo Lovelita Barrientos Jose Flores	29 A Flores, Bagong Ilog, Pasig, Rizal	Antonio S. Barrientos SS#03-1193896-8	September 21, 2006
5) Jaime Robles	Unknown	Luzviminda Bigornia SS#03-5142420-9	October 3, 2006
6) Isabelita Nayao Brondo	1242 Rosario, Sampaloc, Manila	Diosdado Brondo SS#03-1341054-9	October 23, 2006
7) Jose Bustamante	Unknown	Ludivica Calano SS#33-7514940-2	October 7, 2006
8) Rizalina Baylon Castro	111 Marcela St., Caloocan City	Remegio A. Castro SS#03-3884893-4	August 31, 2006
9) Matilde Sancho Ciocon	Sto Nino, Pasil, Bacolod City	Fernando Ciocon SS#07-0803107-0	January 8, 2006
10) Juanita Collada Cely Sumbang	Ugong, Pasig, Rizal 2-A San Jose St., SFDM, Quezon City	Antonio D. Cruz SS#03-2239929-5	February 13, 2006
11) Ester Tabutabu	Tiaong, Quezon	Edmundo B. Dalisay SS#04-0123106-7	August 9, 2006
12) Maria Forta	10 Imugan, Santol, Quezon City	Jose C. De Guzman SS#03-1313722-0	September 26, 2006
13) Celia Supe	B. Mariano St., San Mateo, Rizal	Rogelio Del Rosario SS#03-2077975-2	December 31, 2006
14) Efren Gatuz	24 P. Bautista St., San Roque, Dau 1st, Lubao, Pamp.	Natividad B. Gatuz SS#02-1170177-4	October 29, 2005
15) Sylvia Pagbilao-Gonzales	Malibay, Pasay City	Antero Gonzales SS#03-1269488-7	October 17, 2006
16) Teresita Campos	Telepayong, Arayat, Pampanga	Carlito C. Guina SS#03-2168141-2	October 23, 2006
17) Ulpiano Sagaral	Unknown	Lerma A. Hilario SS#33-0159348-8	June 3, 2006
18) Benedict Laquindanum	San Miguel, Hagonoy, Bulacan	Ariel G. Laquindanum SS#33-3878815-6	September 17, 2006
19) Joraly & Jeffrey	Palanog, Tacloban City	Florencio Layson SS#06-1464743-5	August 15, 2006
20) Caridad Ocon	25 Sander St., Gordon Hts., Olongapo City	Olempio Lendio SS#02-0180363-7	June 15, 1993
21) Augusto Buan Manalang	Unknown	Evelyn A. Madayag SS#01-0606536-3	November 4, 2006
22) Diodit Saldino	342 Gen Luna St., Tuktukan, Taguig, MM	Patrocinio Mendoza SS#33-0379934-5	November 20, 2003
23) Carmelita Esmali-Recto	344 Sandico St., Tondo, Manila	Renato Recto SS#03-1480307-4	December 2, 2006
24) Virginia Sacay	327 Nava St., Balut, Tondo, Manila	Eduardo Sacay SS#03-1211781-4	July 2, 2006
25) Mona Tisurna	Butuan City	Victor Salido Salgado SS#08-0685813-9	April 28, 2006
26) Lolet/Lolet	Laguna	Romeo G. Santos SS#03-3254526-2	March 16, 1999
27) Sebastian Sulabo Lucena Fernandez	Odiongan, Romblon	Reynaldo Sulabo SS#03-1827894-8	April 27, 2001
28) Victor Espina Jr.	Lot 18 Block 13 Area J, Gen. Mariano Alvarez, Cavite	Espino Victor SS#03-4968688-4	December 4, 2003
29) Aquilina F. Villanueva	Magallanes, Agusan del Norte	Antonio Villanueva SS#08-0325548-9	May 12, 2006
30) Susan C. Viray	Murcia, Concepcion, Tarlac	Lino L. Viray SS#02-0102491-1	July 28, 2006

– Nothing Follows –

(PDI – Feb. 24, 2007)

PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE
PAWN*BUY*SELL
WATCHES
Jewelry & Diamonds
BEST APPRAISAL
Secondo Glorietta 1
Tel# 894-0282
Agencia de Makati
Tel# 889-7956

BUYING
ROLEX • Patek Philippe • AP
Panerai • IWC • Omega • Cartier
Also Diamonds and unusual watches
09178884040
7269687
email: worldwatch@gmail.com

MenoGaia
The Leader in total home Care in Japan

WE ARE IN NEED OF:

(10) ENGLISH AS SECOND LANGUAGE TEACHER
> Excellent in Oral and Written English
> Knowledge in Japanese and Korean Language is an advantage but not a requirement
> Teaching Experience is an Advantage
> Call Center and Broadcasting Experience a Plus
> Must be willing to work on shifts

RESOURCE & RESEARCH STAFF
> Excellent in Oral and Written English. Teaching Experience is an advantage
> Will provide and develop lesson materials to be used for online English Courses.

GENERAL OFFICE AFFAIRS STAFF
> Must be knowledgeable in accounting and human resources

For inquiries or submission of resume, contact the following:

Able Advertising Agency
Unit 8 Bohol Mansion, # 43 Sgt Esquerra St., Quezon City
Phone: (02) 413.66.25 / (082) 228.60.20 / able.ad.agency@gmail.com
Or submit to security guard of Port Royal Building, Rada St., Makati City

---

Glitzy Hair Salon

Main Office: 2/F Unit E & H CVA Building, Along Nat'l Rd., Brgy. Poblacion, Muntinlupa City

NOW OPEN FOR FRANCHISE!!!
- ✓ Return of Investment in 6 months
- ✓ Flexible Payment Terms
- ✓ Low Royalty Fee
- ✓ Cheapest Capital Investment

We are also open for Provincial Areas!!!

Call Now! 862-4893/ 0917-8360099

FRANCHISE For Only 88K 2 years Single Unit

10 Hairdressers, Manicurists, Cashiers & Franchise Assistants are welcome to apply

---

AYALA SOUTHVALE
PRIME LOTS AVAILABLE
CGE South Hills Ventures, Inc.
840-0220
Mon-Sun: 0918-5058575
Mon-Fri: 886-0133

BUY • SELL • PAWN
WATCHES JEWELRY DIAMONDS
BEST OFFER IN TOWN
844-2995
8040484
0917-8141967

---

07 URVAN ESCAPADE
10 HOURS P1,800
WITH DRIVER
7878776
7964377
09213497170

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Region IX, Zamboanga Peninsula
DIVISION OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE
Dipolog City
Tel. Nos. 212-2604 & 212-2605
Fax Nos. 212-2604 & 212-2607
E-mail Address: depedzambonorte@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education, Division of Zamboanga del Norte, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SCHOOL FURNITURE CY 2006
Location : Various Schools in Zamboanga del Norte Division
Brief Description : (All Wood)

	Tables & Chairs	Teacher's Table	Armchairs	Approved Budget for the Contract
Package A (1st District)	280 sets	20	450	P 959,000.00
Package B (2nd District)	457 sets	25	350	1,270,000.00
Package C (3rd District)	575 sets	30	360	1,535,000.00
Total	1,312 sets	75	1,160	P 3,764,000.00

ABC & Funding Source : GOP Through the GAA CY 2006
Contract Duration : One hundred twenty calendar days (120)
Delivery Period (Door to door delivery)
1st Delivery (50%) : On or before June 11, 2007
2nd Delivery (50%) : On or before August 10, 2007

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

The DepEd Zamboanga del Norte Division will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all prospective bidders on March 9, 2007 at 10:00 AM.

Bids must be received on or before March 20, 2007, 10:00 AM at the Office of the Assistant Schools Division Superintendent, Chairman of the BAC followed by the opening of sealed Bids. Late bids shall be rejected.

Bids in excess of the Approved Budget for the contract per package shall be rejected.

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **TWO THOUSAND PESOS only (P2,000.00)** to the Division Office's Cashier.

The Department of Education, Zamboanga del Norte Division reserves the right to accept or reject any bid to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **NELFA A. ACOPIADO, Ed. D.**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Feb. 24, 2007)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 • 722-1155

OUR BELOVED

ADELINA "Adel" EVIOTA YAP

passed away in the grace of our Lord
on February 22, 2007.

Her loving husband **Ben**,
her children, **Bess**, **Fred** and **Chris**
her daughters-in-law **Lilia** and **Marivic**
her grandchildren, **Miggy**, **Kitt**, **Lian**, **Mikko**,
Maean and **Pipo**
her sister Mo. Carmela Eviota, OSA

request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Marikina on February 23, 2007 and will be transferred to Candelaria, Zambales at 1:00 a.m. on February 24, 2007. Interment will take place after the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday, February 25, 2007 at the Candelaria Catholic Cemetery.

We, the family of the late
Dr. Domingo T. Antonio, Jr.
(7 July 1910 – 13 February 2007)
wish to convey our sincerest appreciation to all who spent time with us at the wake, attended the funeral, sent flowers and spiritual bouquets, and in other countless ways, consoled us in our sorrow.
We are deeply grateful.

Regina and Gary Freed
Cristina
Celia and Jose Roberto Dueñas
Fernando
Rebecca and Joseph Cotaoco

RAMON FLAMEÑO ALCANTARA

Peacefully joined our Creator
on November 23, 2007 at the age of 79.

His loving wife **Julieta**; daughters **Lydia** & **Kenny**, **Terry** and **Ted**; and son **Manny**; grandchildren **Jaryd**, **Brandon**, **Douglas**, **Ramon**, **Isabella** together with his relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Memorial Services will be held at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc., 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City on February 25 & 26, 2007. (Trunklines: 715-1025-28)

VIRGILIO GARIBAY SALDAJENO

Colonel (Ret.), Philippine Constabulary

January 31, 1930 – February 20, 2007

Virgilio peacefully joined our Creator at home at the age of 77.
He was a loving husband and caring father.

His wife Gloria; children, Mary Ann, Victor & Amy, Vicki & Ron, Ging, Nonoy & Claire, Peewee & Rocky, and Vanessa; grandchildren Duke, Mark, Angelo, Kathryn, Nico, Nina, Ria, Diego, and Gio and brothers & sisters-in-law request everyone to join our prayers for his eternal rest and everlasting happiness with the Lord.

His remains are at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.
A Memorial Mass will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. and a Requiem Mass will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 8:30 a.m.
Interment will follow at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, at 12:00 noon.

More Classifieds:

- Pasig River Rehabilitation
- Mindanao Rural Development Project

A15

- DOLE-NCR
- City Government of Zamboanga
- Poro Point Management
- Panay Power Corporation

A17

Message of Thanks

The family of the late

Serafin V.C. Guingona

who peacefully joined his Creator
on February 13, 2007

wishes to express their gratitude
and appreciation to all those who
in one way or another condoled with
them in their hour of bereavement.

"... absent from the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

ATTY. ARMANDO J. DELA ROSA

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
at the age of 90 on February 23, 2007.

His wife **PAZ**; children **EDGARDO** (†), **ALEX**, **BING**, **ERWIN** and **ZUZETTE**; brother, sisters, in-laws, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the San Aemiliani Chapel, Arlington East Memorial Chapels, 1354 C. Raymundo Avenue corner Mercedes Avenue, San Miguel, Pasig City.

Interment will be announced later.

CLASSIFIEDS

JASHS Batch '61 46th anniversary

CALLING ALL ALUMNI OF CLASS '61 JOSE ABAD SANTOS HIGH SCHOOL. You are cordially invited to attend our 46th anniversary today, Feb. 24, at 3 p.m., 103-A Tandang Sora Ave., Quezon City. For further detail please contact the following: Luningning Enriquez Regala - 930-6273 to 74; Roger Balbuena – 926-7268; Victor de Vera – 940-2404; Roman David – 934-3323.

JJLHS Batch '73 reunion

JUDGE JUAN LUNA HIGH SCHOOL (JJLHS) BATCH '73 SECTION RIZAL WILL hold a reunion on Sunday, Feb. 25, 3 p.m. at Nicanor Pilares place, 14 Yakal st., Hubart Homes, Commonwealth Ave., Old Balara, Q.C. Lots of fun and surprises are stored for you. Please bring gift worth P100 for parlor games. Please join us and reminisce the good old days with our former classmates. This will also serve as our despedida to our classmate Sis. Marianita Teñoso who is leaving for Japan before the end of this month. For info, please call the following: Josie Santillan Jimenez - 480-5393, 233-2370, CP 0919-3647783 or Chito Celestial - 455-6202, CP 0918-4089611.

Promenade Mahogany Village grand open house

THE PROMENADE MAHOGANY VILLAGE, A FULLY GATED COMMUNITY secured by an electronic gate in Cabuyao, Laguna will hold a grand open house today, Feb. 24. In observance of the recent Chinese New Year, guests will be treated to a dragon dance and a festive atmosphere adorned with Chinese new year lanterns for bringing in good feng shui and good fortune! The event is timed for the groundbreaking of Shop House B, the second phase of "shophouses" which offer the unique convenience of being able to live right where your business is. Interested parties and families who want to avail of the comfort, easy-terms and convenient-living in the Promenade Mahogany Village are invited.

TARLAC II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac

INVITATION TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the following vehicle:

All Brand New:

A. L300 FB with Air Condition – One (1) Unit
B. L300 MITSUBISHI (Service Maintenance Vehicle) – Two (2) Units
C. MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE, GLS SPORT
  – 2.5 m/t with Air Condition and Car Stereo – One (1) Unit
  – Color: Monza Silver

NOTE: Only authorized Mitsubishi Dealer shall be entertained.

Prequalification documents shall be received from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM by the Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee through its Chairman, MS. MARILOU N. VERGARA at TARELCO II Main Office Building located in San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac, Philippines. Bid Documents may be obtained from BAC Secretariat upon paymet of Php 5,000.00 in cash.

Last Day of Submission of Prequalification Documents – February 28, 2007
Issuance of Bid Kit – March 2-7, 2007
Date and Time of Pre-bid Conference – March 07, 2007 at 1:30 PM

Date and Time of Bidding shall be announced during the Pre-bid Conference.

TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all applications to pre-qualify and to bid without offering any reason, and waive any defect therein. TARELCO II reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. Send all communications to the PBAC Secretariat at the address mentioned above or at Telephone No. (45) 923-0460 or Fax Nos. (045) 923-0471 & 609-0224.

(Sgd.) MARILOU N. VERGARA
PBAC Chairman

(PDI–February 21 & 24, 2007)

MESSAGE OF THANKS
The bereaved wife **Ampy** together
with the family of the late

FELIXBERTO R. ESPIRITU, SR.

Who died in the grace of God
on 18 February 2007

Sincerely conveys their heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, gave donations, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and in countless ways, condoled with them in their moment of grief.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF A DEVOTED HUSBAND,
A LOVING FATHER AND A DEDICATED FRIEND

BENSON TAM FOO

MAY 30, 1953 - FEB. 24, 2004

"THOSE WHO BLOOM IN THE HEARTS OF OTHERS NEVER FADE AWAY"
DAD, WE MISS YOU.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest;" Matthew 11:28

WE BUY
at HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
HIS & HERS Watch Center
GoldCrest Bldg.
Glorietta-2
5646593 5697041
0917-8473744

CUSTOMER SERVICES OFFICER
✓ Graduate of any 4-year business course
✓ Sales-oriented w/ 5 years work experience
✓ 28-35 years old, female w/ pleasing personality
Send your resumé w/ 2x2 picture to:
Unit 802 Richville Corp. Tower,
Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang,
Muntinlupa City

POEA
24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

BUSINESS

Insurance firms hike premiums

By Michelle V. Remo

NSURANCE COMPANIES HAVE STARTED raising their premiums due to the adverse effects of declining yields on fixed-income investments.

"If interest rates are declining, insurance firms have to adjust prices to maintain profitability. Otherwise, it will suffer in the end when it is unable to service claims," Antonio de Rosas, chief finance officer of Nippon Life Insurance Philippines, said in a briefing yesterday.

De Rosas said the increase in insurance premiums was a strategy adopted industry-wide, noting that investment in government securities and fixed-income instruments account for he bulk of the investment portfolio of many nsurance firms.

He noted it was the first time in 10 years that insurance firms would increase premium rates.

De Rosas said that in the case of Nippon, the higher premiums would apply only to new nsurance products.

Drop in yields on government securities blamed

Nippon will stop selling old insurance products that charged lower premiums and gave higher yields.

Yoshinobu Kimura, president and chief executive officer at Nippon, agreed that increasing premiums would help improve the company's level of solvency.

For the fourth consecutive auction last Monday, interest rates on short-term government securities fell to historic lows.

The 91-day T-bill rate breached the 3-percent mark to settle at 2.885 percent.

The drop in interest rate to record lows is attributed to the high level of excess cash in the market.

The government has decided to issue less Treasury bills and bonds amid its declining budget deficit, which allowed it to borrow less from the capital market.

Nippon has set a 20-percent growth target this year in terms of premium collection.

De Rosas said the company expected an increase in sales, despite a hike premium rates, as the improving macroeconomic environment was seen translating into higher household income.

Kimura said Nippon is 12th in terms of premium collection among 34 life insurance firms in the country.

Its net worth was placed at P1.174 billion.

The company plans to enter the top 10 in two years, he said.

De Rosas said the company was looking at acquiring smaller insurance firms to support Nippon's growth target and enable it to raise its capital as required by the Insurance Commission.

Because of the increased capitalization requirement, De Rosas said the consolidation of insurance firms would be expected.

ICTSI 2006 profit surges 37% to ₱1.85B

By Riza T. Olchondra

PORT OPERATOR INTERNAtional Container Terminal Services Inc. recorded a 37-percent growth in net profit last year to P1.845 billion from P1.347 billion in 2005 due mainly to income from operations abroad.

ICTSI said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that foreign operations accounted for 60 percent of the port operator's net income from just 34 percent in 2005.

ICTSI's foreign container volume grew 34 percent from 2005, driven mainly by the addition of the company's Madagascar and Indonesia port operations, and strong growth at the company's Brazil unit.

The Manila International Container Terminal at South Harbor is ICTSI's flagship port terminal, but it also operates ports in Japan, Indonesia, Poland, Brazil, Syria and Madagascar.

Foreign container volumes now account for 38 percent of total as compared with 35 percent in 2005.

"Container handling volumes at our international units continue to grow strongly, and after a disappointing first half, we are now experiencing positive volume growth at our Manila terminal," ICTSI chairman and CEO Enrique K. Razon Jr. said in a statement.

ICTSI added that its unaudited gross revenues reached P11.85 billion last year, 14-percent more than the previous year's P10.44 billion.

ICTSI handled consolidated volume of 1.995 million twenty foot equivalent units (TEUs) in 2006, 9 percent higher more than the 1.838 million TEUs handled in 2005.

Domestic operations accounted for 62 percent of the consolidated volume at 1.233 million TEUs.

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

TRAVEL TIP Fly on Tuesdays or Wednesdays for best availability of lowest Fares!

SEAT SALE

₱99 Cebu - Bacolod
Sale period: Starting January 31, 2007
Travel period: January 31 to June 30, 2007

LOWEST YEAR-ROUND GO FARES

₱288 Manila - Laoag or Legaspi

₱568 Cebu - Kalibo (for Boracay!) NEW!
Cebu - Clark, Davao, Iloilo or Zamboanga
Davao - Zamboanga
Manila - Bacolod, Dumaguete, Iloilo, Kalibo (for Boracay!) or Roxas

₱688 Cebu - Puerto Princesa NEW!
Manila - Cebu, Puerto Princesa, Tacloban or Tagbilaran

₱998 Manila - Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Cotabato, Davao, Dipolog, General Santos or Zamboanga

₱1,499 Manila - Kuala Lumpur

₱1,999 Cebu - Hong Kong
Manila - Hong Kong

₱2,499 Cebu - Singapore
Davao - Hong Kong (via Cebu)
Manila - Singapore

₱2,999 Davao - Singapore (via Cebu)
Manila - Bangkok
Manila - Jakarta (non-stop)

MOST DOMESTIC DESTINATIONS • MOST DOMESTIC FLIGHTS
MOST DOMESTIC ROUTES • NEWEST PLANES

Call (02)70-20-888
or visit the Travel Agent nearest you.
One way fares/vice versa • Limited seats • Fares may not be available on all days and flights • Fares are exclusive of applicable taxes, fees and surcharges. Promo is non-refundable.

CEBU PACIFIC
It's time everyone flies.

Firm eyes IPO by 2008

ELECTRONIC PROcurement company BayanTrade plans to soon sell a portion of its shares to the public through an initial public offering (IPO).

"If we remain profitable this year, and we are confident that we will be, we will go public in 2008," said BayanTrade president Dante M. Briones.

"But there is so much preparation that goes into having an IPO so we are getting ready," he added.

Briones said BayanTrade recorded $3.2 million in revenues last year and a profit of $400,000, marking its second straight year of profitability.

BayanTrade was founded in 2000 by Aboitiz & Company, Inc., Ayala Corporation, Benpres Holdings Corporation, JG Summit Holdings, Inc., the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company and United Laboratories, Inc. as an e-marketplace.

It has since evolved into a business process outsourcing company that specializes in electronic procurement and supply chain management services and solutions.

BayanTrade's core service offerings fall under three main businesses: Strategic sourcing and supply management, SAP-integrated solutions, and global BPO services for procurement and technical support for SAP solutions. *Riza T. Olchondra*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 23, 2007)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	13.5	13.5	12.75	13	234,800
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	63	63	62	62.5	5,441,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69	69.5	69	69.5	639,600
China Banking Corp.	900	930	900	930	7,590
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	38	39	38	39	7,900
Citystate Savings Bank	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.59	16,710,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	112	112	111	111	435,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	66	67	66	67	2,093,100
Philippine National Bank	54	54.5	53.5	54.5	88,000
Phil. Savings Bank	68	68	66	68	40,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	42	42.5	42	42	112,100
Security Bank Corp.	87.5	87.5	84.5	84.5	127,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	65	66.5	65	66.5	70,100
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Air Kimeng Fin. Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	3,000
Bankard Inc.	0.68	0.7	0.68	0.7	300,000
Citisecondline.Com Inc.	7.4	7.7	7.4	7.6	4,364,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1630	1630	1620	1620	500
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	2.16	2.16	2.12	2.12	181,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	700	1005	700	800	123,870
Ivantage Corp.	1.76	1.8	1.74	1.78	4,765,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
PNOC Energy Dev. Corp.	6.1	6.6	6	6.6	96,082,000
First Gen Corp.	58	58	57	58	526,700
First Phil Hldgs Corp	78.5	81	78.5	78.5	851,900
Manila Electric Co. A	77.5	79.5	77.5	79	230,100
Manila Electric Co. B	78.5	79.5	78.5	79.5	474,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.9	10	9.8	9.9	12,110,000
Petron Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.8	4.85	5,214,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	1,250,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	1,212,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.95	3.95	50,000
Cadp Group Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	61,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	26	26	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	53	54.5	53	54.5	842,600
Rfm Corp.	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.54	60,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.7	2.65	2.65	600,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	450,000
San Miguel Corp. A	66.5	66.5	66.5	66.5	23,000
San Miguel Corp. B	78.5	78.5	77.5	77.5	429,900
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4	4	4	4	4,000
Alliance Tuna Int'l. Inc.	2.08	2.08	2.06	2.06	1,715,000
Universal Robina Corp.	20	20.25	19.75	20	1,899,900
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	1.92	1.96	1.9	1.9	17,536,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	4.85	4.9	4.8	4.85	1,252,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	94,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.6	4,152,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.8	77,000
Republic Cement Corp.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	1,033,000
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.4	5.6	5.3	5.5	5,407,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	130,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.4	0.41	81,300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.65	0.65	0.6	0.6	300,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	296,400,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	59,000,000
Ayala Corp.	610	625	610	620	780,670
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.8	0.83	0.8	0.82	970,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	8.8	8.9	8.7	8.8	5,200,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	10,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	3.35	3.4	3.3	3.4	1,246,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.42	3,510,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	54,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	1.18	1.26	1.16	1.22	12,876,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	5,000
Atn Holdings Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	4,000
Pal Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	255,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	3.8	4.95	3.8	4.4	6,802,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	18,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.15	4.35	4.15	4.3	19,796,000
Dmci Holdings Inc	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	807,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.92	1	0.92	1	210,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	2,746,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	18,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	410,000
Global Business Hldgs Inc	70	70	70	70	10,400
House of Investments Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	722,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	14	14	13.75	14	908,000
Keppel Holdings	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	15,000
Medco Holdings	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	2,080,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.72	0.8	950,000
Magnum Holdings Inc	9.5	10	9.5	10	2,491,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	2.16	2.18	2.08	2.16	4,525,000
Pacifica	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.02	20,200,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.33	0.27	0.33	68,190,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.82	0.83	0.81	0.83	1,100,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.205	33,950,000
SM Investments Corp.	380	390	380	387.5	149,470
South China Resources Inc	1.28	1.28	1.2	1.26	381,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	2.06	2.1	2.02	2.02	568,000
Wellex Industries Inc	0.185	0.24	0.185	0.235	4,530,000
Zeus Holdings Inc	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.39	290,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	17.25	17.25	16.75	17	12,009,200
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	550,000
Belle Corp.	1.56	1.66	1.54	1.62	40,731,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.44	1.44	1,998,000
Cityland Development Corp	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.8	907,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.47	0.49	0.46	0.48	2,150,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	659,000
C & P Homes Inc	2.85	3.1	2.85	3.05	2,758,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.33	0.35	3,880,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28	120,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.88	0.94	0.88	0.92	75,640,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	250,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.07	0.0725	0.07	0.07	1,800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.92	1.94	1.88	1.88	37,441,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.28	1,060,000
Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	420,000
Highlands Prime Inc	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.8	84,000
Interport Res.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	75,500,000
Interport Res. B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	15,000,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	7,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.57	6,300,000
City & Land Developers	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	20,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.04	1.12	1.04	1.04	30,740,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	1,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.3	69,242,000
Metro Pacific Inv. Corp.	5	5.1	4.9	5.1	348,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	2,600,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	2,320,000
Polar Property Holdings	3	3.45	3	3.45	211,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	23	23	22	22	7,371,500
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.68	0.73	0.68	0.71	53,930,000
SM Development Corp.	4.25	4.45	4.25	4.4	1,127,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12.75	13	12.5	12.75	6,767,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc	0.73	0.84	0.73	0.8	18,820,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	12,530,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	26	26	25.5	25.5	111,500
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	35,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.98	1.98	1.96	1.98	19,495,000
Globe Telecom Inc	1390	1390	1375	1375	23,470
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	7.2	7.7	7.2	7.6	18,857,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2590	2610	2590	2610	189,140
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.33	19,010,000
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	3,500,000
Ionics Inc.	2.5	2.65	2.5	2.6	1,059,000
Ipvg Corp.	5.8	6.4	5.8	6.3	8,565,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.06	0.0625	0.0575	0.0575	11,800,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	28,000,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.42	129,000
Transpacific Broadband	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.7	4,890,000
Philweb Corp.	0.0575	0.06	0.055	0.0575	598,900,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	4.5	4.9	4.5	4.6	243,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	28	30.5	28	29	2,728,700
Keppel Phils. Marine, Inc	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	311,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	1,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	3	3.45	3	3.4	16,931,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	10,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	140,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.08	8,542,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc	3.55	3.7	3.55	3.7	448,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	5	5.4	5	5.4	12,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.7	2.7	3,193,000
Paxys Inc.	30	30	29.5	30	642,200
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.42	1.5	1.42	1.5	25,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	1,096,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.5	631,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	1,676,500,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	9.3	9.4	9.3	9.3	1,698,000
Benguet Corp. A	11.5	12	11.5	12	139,800
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.8	58,000
Geograce Res. Phil. Inc.	1.66	1.82	1.66	1.82	232,465,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.3	0.33	0.3	0.32	88,590,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.32	0.37	0.32	0.37	115,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.03	0.032	0.03	0.032	1,426,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.034	0.038	0.034	0.037	773,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.014	0.016	2,602,900,000
Philex Mining Corp.	4.25	4.65	4.25	4.6	67,402,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	18.75	19	18.75	18.75	217,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.71	0.76	0.7	0.73	4,860,000
Vulcan Ind'l	1.14	1.26	1.14	1.26	37,924,000
OIL					
Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	20,130,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.014	92,800,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	223,400,000
The Philodrill Corp	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	1,098,500,000
PNOC Exploration Corp.-B	22	22	22	22	100
Petroenergy Res. Corp	10	10.25	10	10.25	166,000

CURRENCIES

February 23, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.761905	1.000000	48.2680
Japan	Yen	0.006270	0.008230	0.3972
United Kingdom	Pound	1.490667	1.956500	94.4363
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.097543	0.128025	6.1795
Switzerland	Franc	0.615234	0.807494	38.9761
Canada	Dollar	0.656079	0.861104	41.5638
Singapore	Dollar	0.496905	0.652188	31.4798
Australia	Dollar	0.602153	0.790326	38.1475
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.021128	2.652731	128.0420
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.203321	0.266859	12.8808
Brunei	Dollar	0.495290	0.650068	31.3775
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000110	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.022508	0.029542	1.4259
UAE	Dirham	0.207462	0.272294	13.1431
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.312500	63.3518
Korea	Won	0.000811	0.001065	0.0514
China	Yuan**	0.098241	0.128941	6.2237
Argentina	Peso	0.245538	0.322269	15.5553
Brazil	Real	0.367538	0.482393	23.2841
Denmark	Kronar	0.134140	0.176059	8.4980
India	Rupee	0.017296	0.022701	1.0957
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218092	0.286246	13.8165
Mexico	New Peso	0.069245	0.090884	4.3868
New Zealand	Dollar	0.537765	0.705816	34.0683
South Africa	Rand	0.108131	0.141922	6.8503
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023102	0.030321	1.4635

Source: REUTERS' FOREX CLOSING PRICES as of NY Time- Feb. 22, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian Time Closing Rate as of Feb. 15, 2007

PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Giving ideal accommodation solution to traveling execs

THE SUBIC Holiday Villas is Quantum Hotels and Resorts' first venture in managing leisure and retirement development.

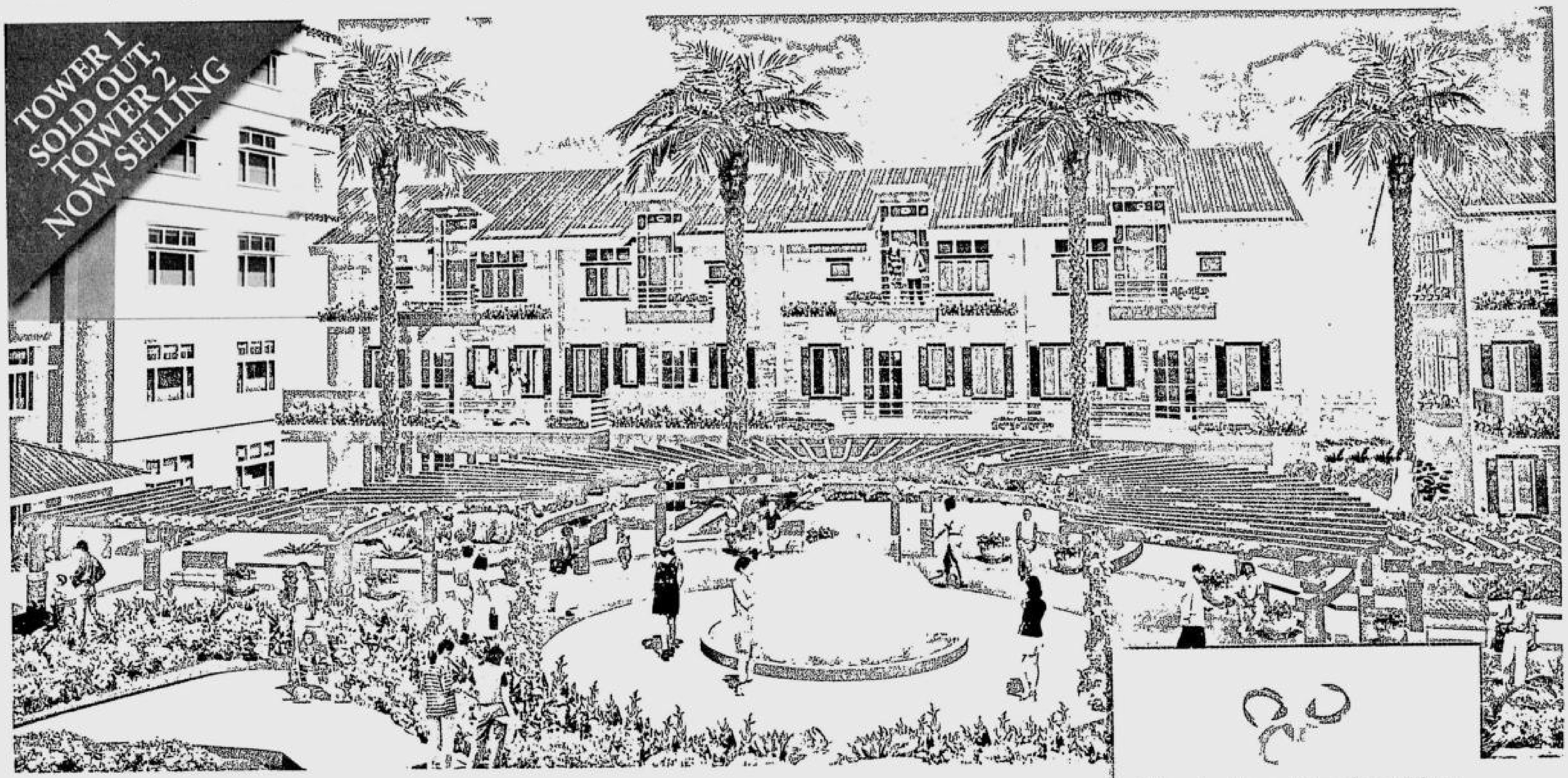
By Charles E. Buban

PROPERTY MANAGERS usually refer to a team of professionals who specialize in marketing, leasing, maintaining and even refurbishing of buildings and oftentimes, the associated land.

"In our case, we team up with developers of residential or vacation properties to provide high-quality guest services as well as management and marketing systems for serviced residence guests and owners," said Joey Bernardino, VP for Sales and Marketing of Quantum Hotels and Resorts.

Established in 2000, the company now manages several properties in the Philippines: three serviced apartments within the Makati Business District (BSA Towers, BSA

GIVING/ B2-2

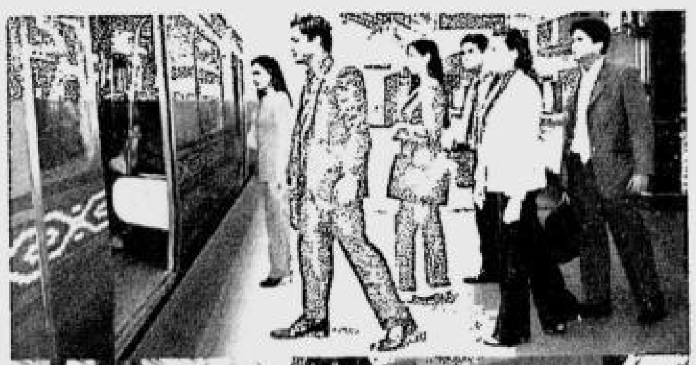


TOWER 1 SOLD OUT, TOWER 2 NOW SELLING

Manhattan Garden City
AT THE ARANETA CENTER

A Matchless Location at the Metro's Center.

Go from home to the heart of the action in no time. At Manhattan Parkway, the first phase of Manhattan Garden City, enjoy the benefits of living in the country's first-ever transit-oriented development. Experience the freedom to go places with utmost ease via the LRT-2 and MRT-3. And reach the north, east, west and south sides of Metro Manila in one go. What's more, be a walk away from the Araneta Center and its shops, offices, restaurants and entertainment hubs.



Surrounded by the city's key destinations.

Your Parkway home is encircled by everything the city has to offer. And you're just a train ride away from it all. Walk down an exclusive **729-meter-long garden footbridge** four stories above street level. Take in its park-like scenery. And arrive at the LRT-2 and MRT-3 stations safely and without the hassles of traffic.

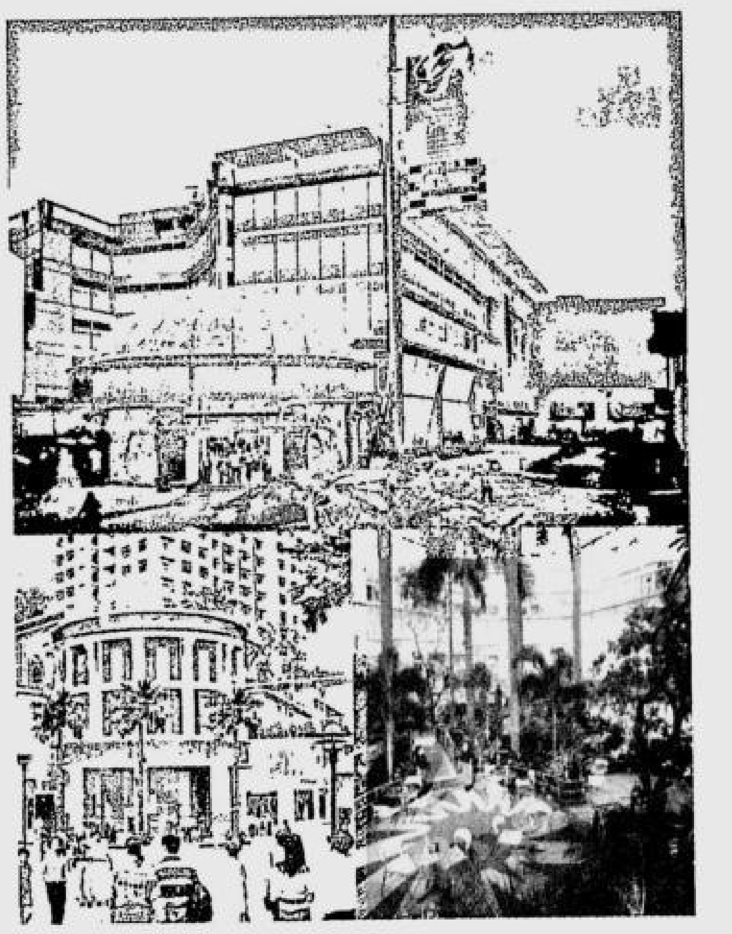
From the LRT-2 along Aurora Boulevard, Ateneo and UP in Quezon City and Manila's university belt are just minutes away. The MRT-3 along EDSA brings Makati, Ortigas and Taft Avenue within easy reach. Both lines join up with the LRT-1, making it easy to go anywhere from Monumento in Caloocan to Baclaran in Parañaque.

Surrounded by the Araneta Center's hot spots.

Be in the middle of a pulsating lifestyle and leisure center: the Araneta Center. From your home, a four-story **transfer station** with a hotel-style lobby, grand staircase and four passenger elevators brings you to the third level of Gateway Mall, which hosts the Oasis, a unique floating garden. From here, simply walk to the Araneta Coliseum. Or to Rustan's, SM, Shopwise, Ali Mall or Farmers Plaza.

Surrounded by the comforts of home.

When you're done exploring the world outside, your home is just a breath away. Whether it's an executive studio or one-bedroom suite, **Manhattan Parkway** offers you soothing views of the Araneta Center and Manila Bay. What's more, enjoy hours of active play at the fourth-level garden deck. There are trellised walkways, jogging trails, a fitness station, an indoor sauna/spa and a gym. And if that's not enough, a footbridge leads to more play amenities at the upcoming phases.



Visit our SHOWROOM
at the third floor of the Gateway Mall.

Celebrate the New Year with the most important decision of your life.

Own a luxurious studio at Manhattan Parkway for as low as
P10,246 a month fixed for 20 years.
Choose from our revolutionary, budget-friendly packages, including HOMELITE 10, HOMELITE 15 or HOMELITE 25.

A FIRST from Megaworld in cooperation with Security Bank!

Own a Manhattan Parkway condo with
MEGAWORLD
HOMELITE
A NEW ERA IN AFFORDABLE HOME FINANCING

For more details, inquire from our HOMELITE specialist. Call 810-3333 or 913-0234 now.

Joint Venture Partner:
Araneta Center
www.aranetacenter.net

Exclusive Marketing Agent:
MEGAWORLD CENTRAL PROPERTIES, INC
inquire@themanhattangardencity.com

DEVELOPER:
MEGAWORLD CORPORATION
www.megaworldcorp.com
ISO 9001:2000 CERTIFIED

For Announcement Purposes Only

Macau setting the stage for the boom

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

A FEW DAYS IN MACAU GAVE ME A view of a city on the throes of a boom. Evident in the handsome bridges and wide highways are the intense preparations and proactive planning by its city officials. Several huge buildings now under construction are a testament to the coming birth of a new Macau.

Apparently, the big city infrastructure was first put in place before investors were even lured to erect their skyscrapers and casinos. Elsewhere, new roads are created only when traffic becomes unbearable. In Macau, big business is presented with a clean progressive landscape at the outset, much like the beginning screens of a SIM city.

In our country, planned communities like Bonifacio, Alabang and Sta. Rosa are initiated by the private sector, not the government. In fairness to our public planners, great city development blueprints had been drawn up ages ago, but the lack of will, not to mention the funding, to implement these, has discouraged more active private sector investments.

Firm commitment

The success of a city is brought about by a government's firm commitment to make good on its promises. Seeing concrete steps toward improving infrastructure and public works heartens the investors, since they know that the developments they put up will not be wasted on a stagnant city.

Imagine the frustration of spending billions of dollars worth of infrastructure, based on the promise of a government to build a road and an airport in a certain area and later finding out that red tape has stopped it from delivering. But if the government has a track record of fulfilling its promises to big business, then that country would be a paradise for investors.

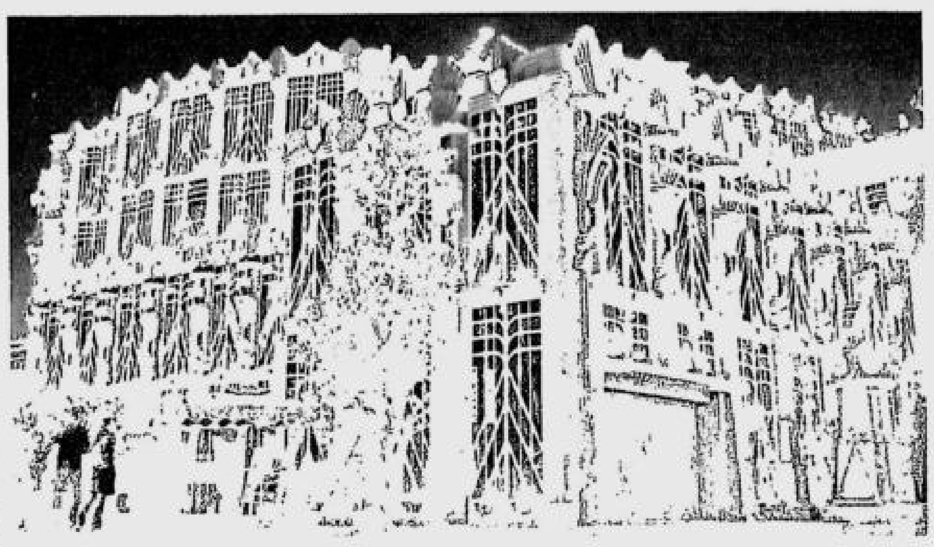
It's just too bad that our government is too busy fending off bad publicity and chalking up "pogi" points, instead of focusing on improving roads, building bridges, and upgrading utilities and services, which are the backbone of construction and industry. There must be clear rules and guidelines that are supportive of investors, rather than requirements that only allow small officials to filch and prop up their personal nest eggs.

Obstacles

In our country, a heretofore developer has countless obstacles to put up with! Developers have to build their own expressway interchange and connecting roads to get to their property. They have to have their own generator sets since the public-supplied power is unreliable. They have to excavate their own wells and erect their own water towers to ensure an adequate supply.

Developers have to get rid of squatters infesting their areas, since most of these "potential voters" had been sanctioned by the local governments for decades. Those who follow the laws strictly may face a disadvantage if they meet up with a competitor who has paid his way through.

We spend so much money on pork barrels of lawmakers intent only on assigning their names to roads rather than refining existing laws to be more investor-friendly. It brings to mind a bumper sticker I once read: "If you want to do something, do it now before they make a law against it."



AMONG THE MODERN structures, the Babylon Casino at the Fisherman's Wharf stands out.

Must-see sites

Also in Macau, I observed with some degree of envy how much importance they placed on preserving their old churches and buildings. Although, these structures are not as impressive as those we have on our own shores, they played them up in their tourist brochures as "must-see" sites! It makes me hope we could be more careful and proud of preserving our own heritage. We have so many truly beautiful heritage sites that are either left to deteriorate or even demolished and replaced by garish malls and buildings.

When will we ever learn how rich we are in culture and history—when there's nothing more to preserve? Our cities are rich in interesting buildings, parks and churches. We have to cajole, coerce and convince our public officials to allocate some percentage of their "pork" to the maintenance and protection of these sites. We may need huge malls and commercial buildings to be viable in the 21st century, but, please, not at the expense of our heirloom sites.

Enjoy safety and security at Manhattan Garden City

WHEN YOU BUY A CONDO UNIT, safety and security are two of your main concerns. With its excellent track record and experience in residential condominium development, Megaworld Corp. makes safety and security the top priorities in Manhattan Garden City.

Residents will experience a grand, safe welcome at the Manhattan grand transfer pavilion. It's a dome-shaped structure near Gateway Mall that serves as the main entry and exit point to Manhattan Garden City. It features a modern hotel-like lobby that gives an impressive sense of arrival.

Safety measures

"Our property management office will surely come up with proven safety measures that will benefit our residents, including round-the-clock security at the main lobby," Megaworld Central Properties Inc. president Anthony Charlemagne Yu promised.

The residents' safety has also been considered with the design of their access to both the LRT2 and MRT3. A 729-meter-garden walkway connects the entire Manhattan Garden City at the fourth floor podium level. Without going down to the street level, they can reach the train stations and even the Araneta Center's main malls: Gateway, SM and Ali Mall.

"This spells peace of mind, especially for parents who invest with us and are eyeing the unit to be the residence of their college-bound children. When they disembark the MRT, they don't have to go down to the street level. They can use the elevated walkways, reach the transfer pavilion, and then be safely home. It's also convenient for investors who are targeting Manhattan Garden City for their retirement because the train stations and elevated walkways enhance their mobility," Yu discussed.

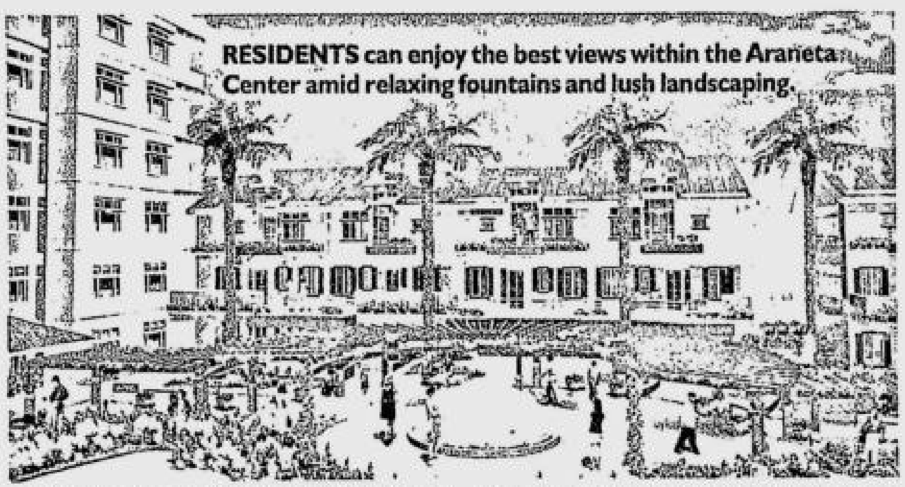
Amenities

The elevated garden walkway also allows residents to enjoy the views of the whole Araneta Center without being at street level. This three-hectare open space, out of the total five hectares slated for development, also hosts a wide array of amenities. Active group amenities are fitness-related like exercising, biking, jogging and swimming at the lap pools. Semi-active amenities refer to activities for fun and recreation like playground for the kids, adventure area for teens and barbecue or picnic area for adults.

Semi-passive amenities include chatting and interacting in the gazebo and sitting areas. Passive group activities are the least strenuous ones like flower gardening, reading a book in a quiet nook, engaging in contemplation on the reflecting pool or walking barefoot on a reflexology path.

"This is a wide range of amenities which Manhattan Garden City residents will enjoy with one another and are truly exclusive. Children can play in utmost security, while adolescents can swim to their hearts' delight in ultimate privacy," Yu noted.

Investors and homebuyers will also be glad to know that the whole Araneta Center is well prepared to handle all kinds of emergencies and highly considers the safety and security of its shoppers, residents and office workers.



RESIDENTS can enjoy the best views within the Araneta Center amid relaxing fountains and lush landscaping.

Anti-terrorism drill

Just recently, the Araneta Coliseum held an anti-terrorism drill in cooperation with the Quezon City government and the Philippine National Police. The drill sought to orient Araneta Center employees plus the police, fire and medical rescue teams on how to act in case of emergencies.

Pink smoke rose from the Big Dome and signaled the start of the drill. Emergency actions were perfectly implemented, such as the use of proper exits and the immediate evaluation and treatment of those "injured."

Topmost priority

"Safety is always our topmost priority here at the Araneta Center," Araneta Security Force chief Ernie San Juan said. "We want to ensure that everyone at the Araneta Center feels secure." In addition, K9 and bike patrols and a roving night patrol help keep the Araneta Center safe and secure round the clock.

If you value the safety and security for your entire family, it is in your best interest to check out what Manhattan Garden City has to offer. Visit the Manhattan Garden City showroom at the third level of Gateway Mall. You may also call 810-3333 or e-mail inquire@themanhattangardencity.com for a viewing appointment.

Young families find first home at Raya Garden

YOUNG COUPLES ARE DRIVEN today by meaningful goals for their family. Both husband and wife take on jobs and strive every day to provide a comfortable lifestyle for themselves and their children. At the same time, they plan wisely to secure their future, investing on a property, a car, educational and insurance plans, and most importantly, a house where all their dreams are built upon.

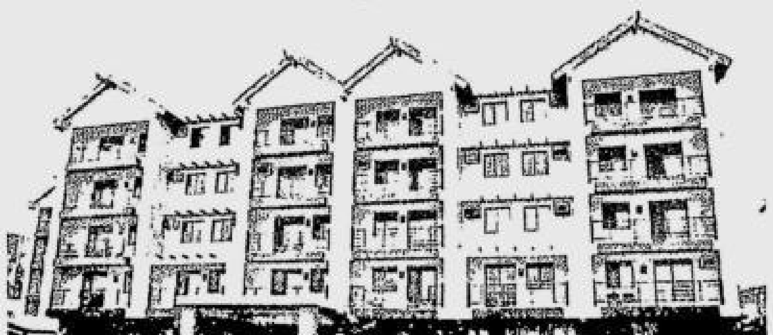
Richard Ong is one of those young urban professionals who wake up every day to face the various demands of the corporate world. But what sets him apart from the rest is that at such a young age, he finally has acquired a house for himself, his wife Aileen, and 3-year-old son Miguel.

First residents

The Ong family, in fact, holds the distinction of being the first residents of Raya Garden Condominium, a sprawling, Bali-inspired sanctuary in Parañaque City developed by DMCI Homes.

The two-bedroom, 48-square-meter unit, is very ideal for a start-up family. Richard's young brood is enjoying this exciting phase of their lives with other residents in the development. Their new house at Raya Garden affords them more living room space ideal for entertaining their guests. There is also a kitchen, dining area and two spacious bedrooms—one for the couple and one for their toddler Miguel.

The family moved in last December 2006, and has since enjoyed their first official home. Located on the fifth level, their unit is always well-lit because of the building's atrium which allows natural airflow and sunlight to flood the corridors.



RAYA Garden Condominium, a sprawling, Bali-inspired sanctuary in Parañaque City developed by DMCI Homes.

Location

"We chose Raya Garden because of the location," Richard said. "It is also very accessible to major business and commercial areas, including Ortigas where my office is, and Makati where my wife works. Instead of wasting hours on traffic, we get home on time to spend more time with our son," he added.

There are less than 40 units currently occupied by residents, so the emerging community is bonding very effectively with a lot of shared experiences. Raya Garden's target market includes single professionals, young couples and start-up families.

Ceremonial turnover

During a recent event, Richard represented the residents of Raya Gardens in a ceremonial turnover of homes from key officials of DMCI Homes.

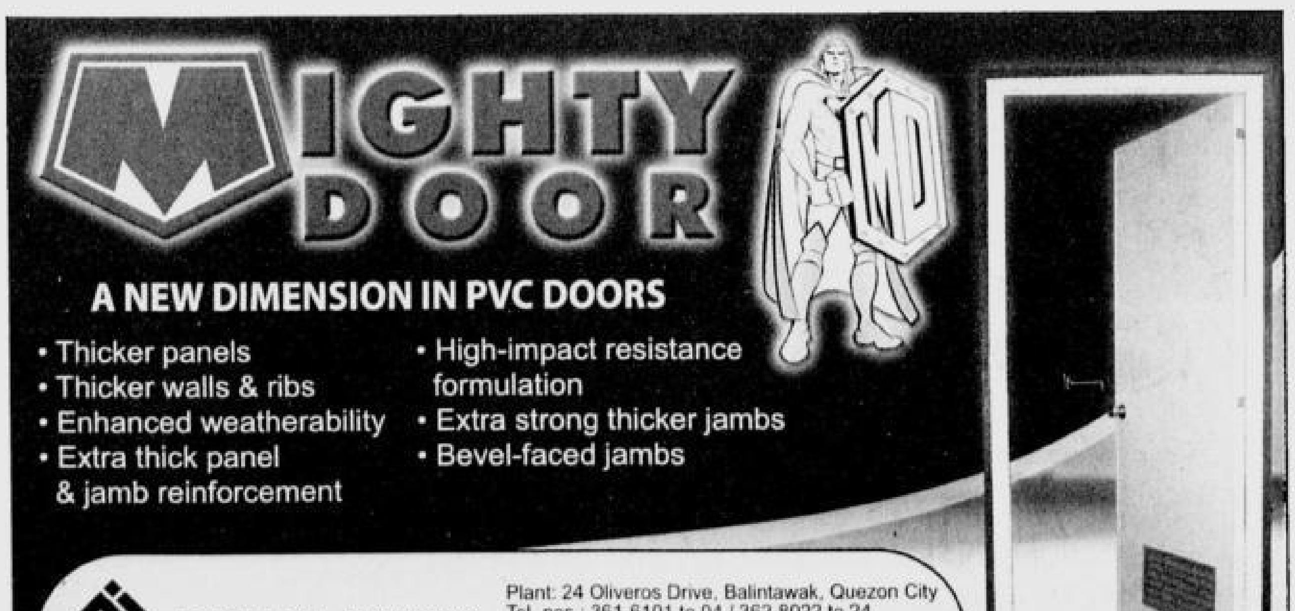
Alfonso Cervero, Customer Care Division director of DMCI Homes, said: "Before the client even sees his unit, the turnover group, which is under my division, comes in and inspects how the unit is finished according to the turnover specifications. After that, we schedule a date for the client to see the unit himself and once they give their approval, we schedule the turnover," Cervero explained.

More affordable units

"All our units are likewise more affordable because of the engineering solutions we have come up with. DMCI Construction Group, which is DMCI Homes' affiliate company, has been in the industry for more than 50 years, so we have an advantage in terms of experience in building landmarks. Now, we're trying to accomplish the same in building homes and communities that respond to the needs and wants of the Filipino family," Cervero added.

For inquiries on Raya Garden, please call 888-3333 or check out www.dmcihomes.com.

100% WATERPROOF
Flexseal
Elastomeric Paint
NO.1
Elastomeric Paint in the Philippines
Now available in 31 colors
2005 National Shopper's Choice Award
CAMPBRIDGE Waterproofing Systems, Inc.
TEL.NOS.: 252-05-31 (connecting all departments)
Available through dealers nationwide



MIGHTY DOOR
A NEW DIMENSION IN PVC DOORS
- Thicker panels
- Thicker walls & ribs
- Enhanced weatherability
- Extra thick panel & jamb reinforcement
- High-impact resistance formulation
- Extra strong thicker jambs
- Bevel-faced jambs

EMERALD VINYL CORPORATION
Plant: 24 Oliveros Drive, Balintawak, Quezon City
Tel. nos.: 361-6101 to 04 / 362-8022 to 24
Fax no.: (632) 361-6740
Sales Office: 654 Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City
Tel. nos.: 532-2624 / 532-2702 / 532-7963
Fax no.: 534-0554
AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING HARDWARE AND DIY STORES

Giving ideal accommodation

From page B2-1

Suites and Perla Mansions), The Malayan Plaza, a high-end serviced residence located in Ortigas Center, Pasig City (in partnership with owner and developer Malayan Insurance Co. Inc.) and more recently, the Subic Holiday Villas, a leisure and retirement development located inside the Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales (in partnership with owner and developer Starland Properties Inc.).

Strategically located

"As one may notice, all the properties we manage are strategically located in fast-growing business and financial hubs where our guests, composed mostly of business travelers and holiday makers, as well as expatriates on short and extended assignments, do business," Bernardino explained.

He noted that the Philippines' serviced residence and apartment sector has come a long way in a short span of time.

"The sector is enjoying tremendous growth, carving out a niche sector within the broader hospitality industry. This is because of what they offer: an ideal accommodation solution as well as an excellent and more viable alternative to hotels (in general, a well-managed serviced residence or apartment offers corporate executives the luxury of a junior suite at the price of a hotel room)," Bernardino explained citing The Malayan Plaza as one excellent example.

Self-contained units

The 36-story residential condominium located at the corner of ADB Avenue and Opal Road in Ortigas Center, offers 150 elegantly furnished, self-contained serviced residences in studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom or three-bedroom layout.

"At a per day rate starting at P3,800 (for a studio superior unit), staying at The Malayan Plaza is indeed more attractive than most five-star hotels in Metro Manila," said Bernardino who reported that The Malayan Plaza currently registers a healthy 85 to 90 percent average occupancy rate.

He added that the main attraction of a serviced residence or apartment is its flexible rental period—instead of being bound by a minimum leasing period, as with a conventional rented house or condominium, the tenant is allowed to specify the length of occupancy.

"Variable term leasing offers a welcome option for our guests, particularly in the central business districts, which have to accommodate traveling executives who may need a roof for anything from a few days to several months and to whom an extended stay in a hotel room does not appeal," he explained.

Valuable feature

In terms of facilities, Bernardino explained that serviced residences like The Malayan Plaza provide private cooking and laundry facilities, a valuable feature not found in hotel accommodation.

He described that the guest rooms at The Malayan Plaza is at par with Metro Manila's finest five-star hotels as the building provides facilities such as the helipad, outdoor pool, state-of-the-art business center with secretarial services, function rooms and other specialized services for corporate clients.

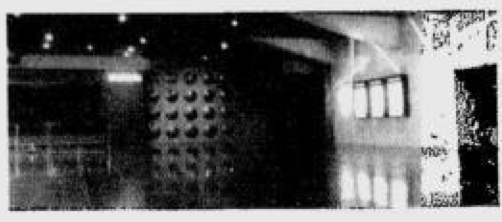
Leisure travelers, on the other hand, are also provided with facilities like a fully equipped fitness room, and mini golf putting green.

"I strongly believe that the demand for serviced residences and apartments will continue to grow (bolstered by a steadily growing arrival of tourists that already reached 2.6 million last year). And expect Quantum Hotels and Resorts to be in the forefront of providing developers the best package for their properties," Bernardino promised.

Quantum Hotels and Resorts, whose corporate office is located at the Rufino Pacific Tower on Ayala Avenue, Makati also has a sales and development office in CNT Tower, Hennessy Road, Hong Kong.

SM City opens Bacolod branch March 2

THE SM City Bacolod will bring shopping, dining and entertainment excitement to the Western Visayas shoppers.



SM City Bacolod's Cinema has silver fiber glass button-like wall designs and has cross lines which create a dramatic reflection on the floor.

THE WESTERN Visayas region will have its own version of the iconic Mall of Asia when SM City Bacolod opens its doors to the public on Friday. It is SM Prime Holdings' 28th supermall and will serve customers in this dynamic hub of trade, education and government services in Negros Occidental.

Located on a 16-hectare property across Rizal Street, the 60,000 square meter mall will bring SM's shopping, leisure and entertainment excitement to Bacolod City, as well as Negros Occidental and nearby provinces. Like the Mall of Asia, which has a spectacular view of scenic Manila Bay, SM City Bacolod is located in a reclaimed area near the harbor of Guimaras Strait. This will give mallgoers the added attraction of fresh air and a breathtaking view of this busy waterway.

This single-level retail and entertainment center consists of two separate buildings connected by a bridgeway. Building A includes SM Hypermarket, selected anchor stores, other retail stores, four cinemas and outdoor dining facilities. Building B, on the other hand, has the SM Department Store as its major anchor, and includes the SM Foodcourt, the entertainment area, stores and restaurants, and outdoor dining areas.

New ideas

SM City Bacolod is a mall of many new concepts. A bridgeway highlights the architectural character of the whole structure, unifying the design of two buildings, and making it the first of its kind among SM malls. It welcomes customers with a six-sided grand façade with 10 SM signages all around.

The mall's interiors are equally compelling—high ceilings and colorful murals inspired by Bacolod's world-famous Maskara Festival and designed by popular director Fritz Infrante.

SM City Bacolod will have about 200 tenants, including SM anchors, fashion boutiques, shoe and home stores, and computer stores. Aside from the foodcourt, it also has local and international fast-food chains, food retailers and specialty restaurants. It will have major international and Manila-based brands, as well as homegrown retailers and restaurants.

Attractions

The mall's attractions include an al-fresco dining area called the Fiesta Strip on both sides of Rizal Street, an event center for premiere events, and a theater that can be converted as a venue for concerts, plays, product launches and conventions.

For customer convenience. SM City Bacolod has ample parking for 1,000 cars and 300 motorcycles. It also has two transport terminals, as well as a travelers lounge with a ferry ticket counter, waiting area, baggage counter, and hot and cold shower.

The mall is also handicap-friendly with ramps, railings and elevators, as well as breastfeeding-friendly with a room for nursing mothers. Environmentally concerned like other SM malls, it also has a sewage treatment plant that recycles water, and is the only mall in Bacolod, which utilizes waterless urinals in all its male restrooms.

SM City Bacolod's design team includes Design Associates, design architect; WV Coscolluela and Associates, architect of record; DA Abcede and Associates, project manager; and Monolith Construction and Development Corp.

UNEQUALLED PERFORMANCE

macnell
architectural paints

ACRE COAT
Coats like no other, for that 100% waterproof finish. The perfect blend of strength and aesthetics.

ACRYL MEL
Provides excellent hiding power and easy brushing.

ACRE CAST
Specially formulated to provide ultimate surface protection. Washable texture.

MACNELL AQUASEAL
A new generation of waterproofing technology that provides protection from destructive effects of water seepage.

ACRE LAX
Combines the advantage of acrylic latex and emulsion latex.

Eliminates Concrete Seepage
100% Waterproof

Manufactured by
MAYON INDUSTRIAL CORP.
51 JOY CORNER HARMONY STS., GRACE VILLAGE,
BALINTAWAK, QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA
TELS.: 241-3353 • 364-5731 • 364-4733
241-3159 • 364-7135 • 364-6345

Aqua Guard®
Elastomeric Waterproofing Paint

Premium Elastomeric Paint

Now available at
the home depot
ORTIGAS & ALABANG
Handyman Do it center

22 Standard Colors
(factory tint available upon request)
in Sheen and Semi-Gloss

Outstanding Flexibility & Elongation!

From the makers of
UNIVERSAL PAINT

H-Chem Ind. Inc. (632) 646-8773 www.hchem.com.ph

Villeroy & Boch
1748

KEUCO
DIE MARKE FUR BAD

DORN BRACHT

HÜPPE

MOVING OUT SALE

Visit us now!!!! and catch our

BIG, BIG, DISCOUNTS OFFER

HURRY!!! OFFER IS UNTIL MARCH 15, 2007

HAMBURG
INTERNATIONAL
SALES CORPORATION
2230 Pasong Tamo Avenue, Makati City
Tel: 844-14-42 or 844-17-75

SM Development's first residential towers project in full swing

Construction of Mezza Residences, the first high-rise residential condominium project of SM Development Corporation, is already in full swing. Units at the 38-storey Towers 1 and 2 of Mezza Residences are almost sold out and will be ready for occupancy in 2009. The next two towers, 3 and 4, are already open for reservations and will begin construction in the next six months to meet the continuous demand for the project.

Mezza Residences is the first of its kind residential condominium building within the Araneta Avenue and Aurora Boulevard area of Sta. Mesa. It is positioned as a stylish sanctuary for sophisticated urbanites.

The development's unique positional advantage (a stone's throw away from SM City Sta. Mesa) has attracted individuals and families in the Sta. Mesa district looking for a more upscale living option, as well as medical professionals and students from nearby medical centers and other offices. Provincial And overseas buyers are jumping the bandwagon joining the hundreds of satisfied unit owners.

Home buyers for Towers 3 and 4 can choose from one-, two-, three-bedroom and suite units, with each unit allowing high-rise views depending on the orientation -- Quezon City to the north, Antipolo City to the east, the Makati and Ortigas business districts to the south and Manila Bay to the west.

The design of Mezza Residences seek to elevate the comforts and benefits of the metropolitan, ultra-modern lifestyle, yet its four towers are planned to form part of a 'green community network' to balance residents' experience with a feel of an urban oasis. Amenities such as a plaza, a thousand square meter lawn, a Zen garden, health walk and health stations bring out the green community concept. More than these, Mezza also boasts of a masterfully landscaped pool area with separate pools for children and adults, as well as interactive water jets. A children's playground, several multipurpose areas and trellised arcade complete Mezza's picture of a relaxing community situated right at the middle of the city.

Beyond recreation, the building will also house various other complementary retail and service options in the podium level. Shopping and entertaining can be indulged in at the neighborhood SM Sta. Mesa mall, linked to the towers by an exclusive bridgeway.

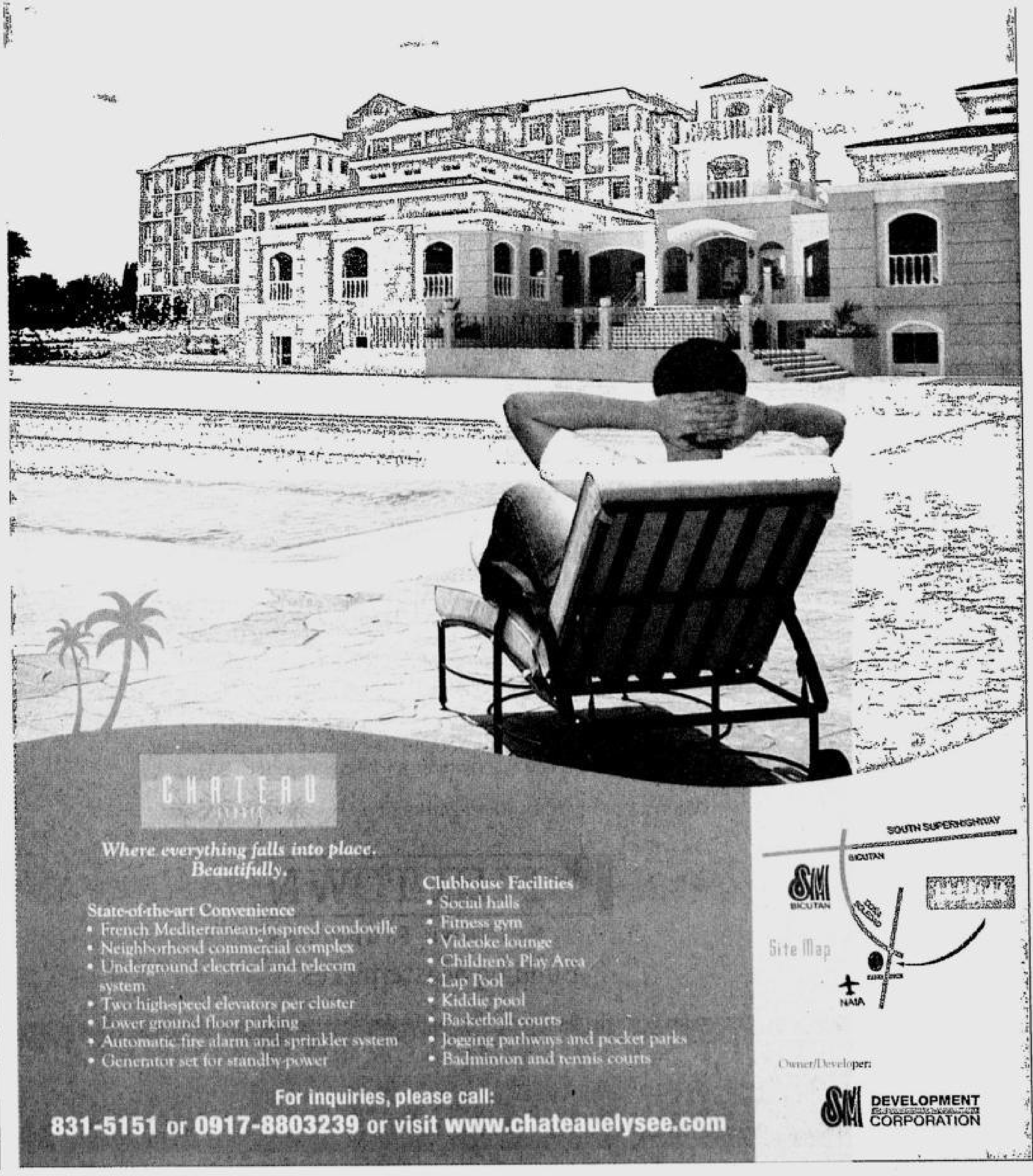
SM Development Corporation is the real estate development arm of the SM Group of Companies, designing and creating homes and leisure and tourism projects for the active premium middle market segment. For more information, please call (02)8332957 or 0918-8881230, email us at info@smdevelopment.com or visit www.smdevelopment.com.

ADVT.

Rent no more!

Your dream home is now within reach.

☑ No Downpayment! ☑ Low Monthly Amortizations!
☑ Instant move in for as low as P 7,500 a month!



CHATEAU

Where everything falls into place. Beautifully.

State-of-the-art Convenience
- French Mediterranean-inspired condoville
- Neighborhood commercial complex
- Underground electrical and telecom system
- Two high-speed elevators per cluster
- Lower ground floor parking
- Automatic fire alarm and sprinkler system
- Generator set for standby-power

Clubhouse Facilities
- Social halls
- Fitness gym
- Videoke lounge
- Children's Play Area
- Lap Pool
- Kiddie pool
- Basketball courts
- Jogging pathways and pocket parks
- Badminton and tennis courts

Owner/Developer:
SM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

For inquiries, please call:
831-5151 or 0917-8803239 or visit www.chateauelysee.com

ROMANCE is in full bloom at Portofino's Amore

BRITTANY president Jing Serrano leads the spirited team behind Portofino's Amore.

Amore: Brittany's new enclave at Portofino

WHEN MAVERICK REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER Brittany Corp. builds, it goes all the way. Its famed masterplanned communities are a testament to its commitment to greatness from the ground up. Guided by imagination, inspiration and ceaseless vision, Brittany builds with the future in mind.

Refashioning 300 hectares of land on Las Piñas-Cavite-Laguna-Muntinlupa Link Road, the result is a unique masterfully planned community that is unprecedented in terms of concept.

Sculpting the property stone by stone, Brittany created Portofino, an inspired development that combines Italian esthetics with Filipino sensibilities. Cobble-stoned paths, sundrenched colors, cupolas and balconies dominate the landscape that respects both cultures that may seem worlds apart but are surprisingly similar.

11-hectare enclave

At the heart of the Portofino development is a newly opened 11-hectare enclave that is Amore. Amore of Portofino makes concrete all the attributes of love with lots of Tuscan heart. Echoing the rustic Tuscan countryside, it sits on prime, fertile, rolling terrain cradled by trees and can easily be accessed through three major road arteries. Within its walls lies a paradise that truly speaks the language of love and passion.

"Amore is about a deep sense of commitment to family. It is also about romance and passion. It believes in celebrating life every single second and ensuring that this revelry of the soul is reflected on everything that surrounds the body. These are the core values that are surprisingly both very Italian and very Filipino. And this, we are proud to say, is very Portofino!" enthused Jing Serrano, president of Brittany Corp.

Architectural details

Amore distinguishes itself from the other Portofino properties through its architectural details. The cupola, among others, is unique because it is squarish, while the cupolas in the Courtyards of Portofino are circular.

Another unique feature of Amore would be the clusters—an assemblage of four single-detached residential units with a common paved driveway and a landscaped pocket garden. The clusters offer further exclusivity in an enclave that is already extremely secure. Although a part of the Portofino development and its security system, Amore also has its own perimeter fence for added protection.

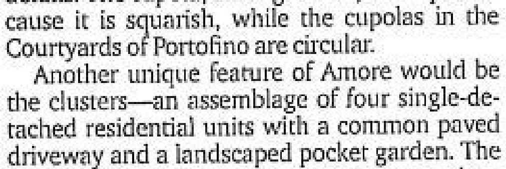
In February, Amore of Portofino offers five model units to accommodate the varied requirements and tastes of clients with floor areas ranging from 139 sq m to 210 sq m and packages range from the mid P8.7 million to P13 million. In February, Amore opened Tavola, a 204-square-meter Tuscan-inspired model home.

Simply a love affair

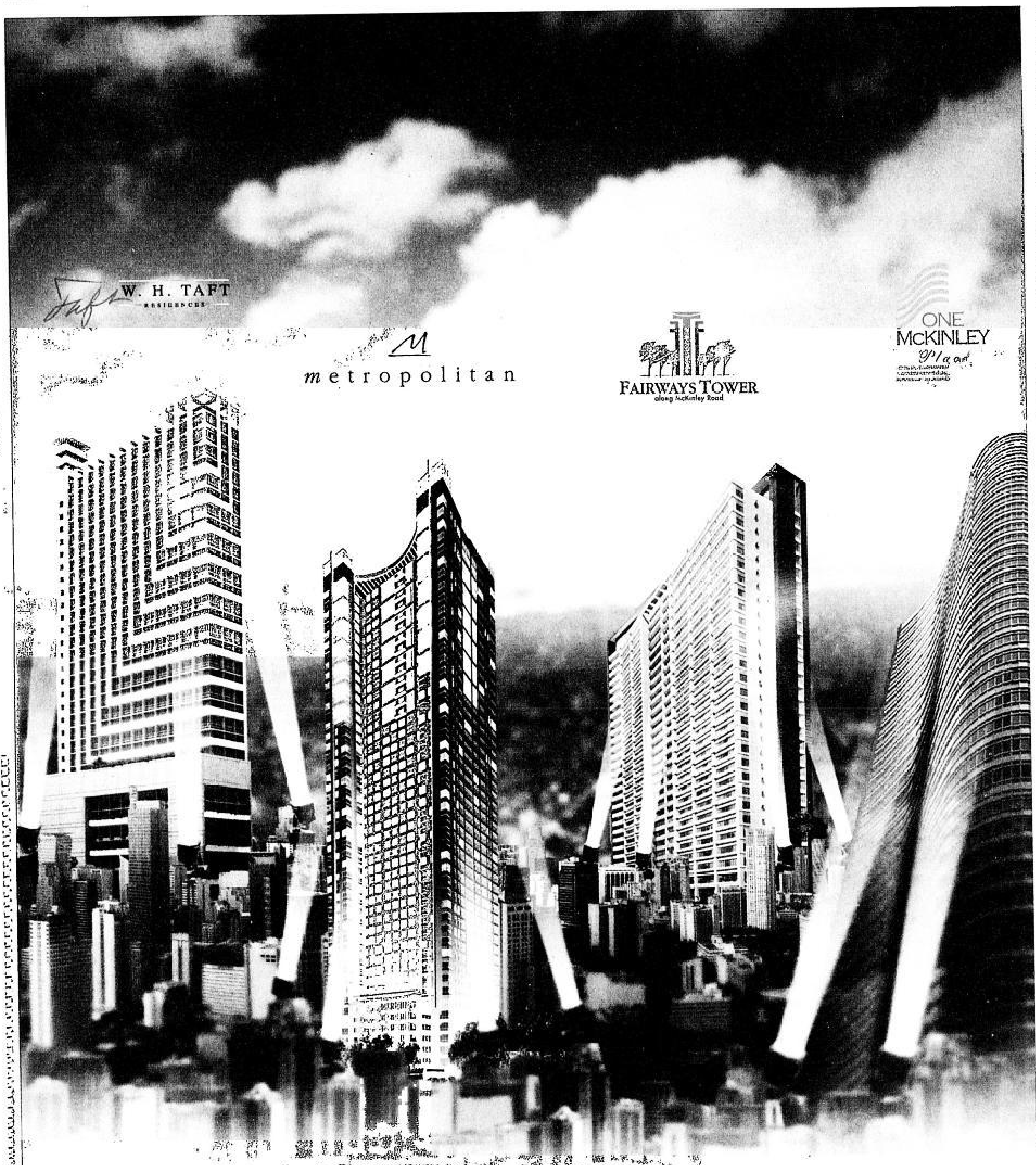
"Amore is simply a love affair with the land," Serrano explained. "It exemplifies what we have all along been articulating in all our developments in Portofino, that is, the romance and passion of Italian living. And since this is what Portofino is to us, it comes but naturally for us to progress to Amore—our latest expression of love and passion in a property development. As reflected in our track record, we have a knack for pushing the envelope further and Amore is another such example." That impressive track record includes Portofino Heights, Portofino South and the highly successful Courtyards of Portofino

"We have always reiterated that the house is not just four walls and a roof. It is a sanctuary, a place of peace, a home for loved ones to share. At Portofino, every home is a masterpiece. Each one was the result of our commitment to providing the highest possible quality of living combined with our passion for life, love and family. The Portofino development is exactly how people should live and we are honored that Brittany Corp. has turned it into a reality. We've been told that home is where the heart is. The Portofino development, I believe, has captured the hearts of its residents. Truly, it is where the heart has found a home," Serrano added.

For inquiries and property previews, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084.



ROMANCE resides at the heart of Amore.



The city. Our gallery.

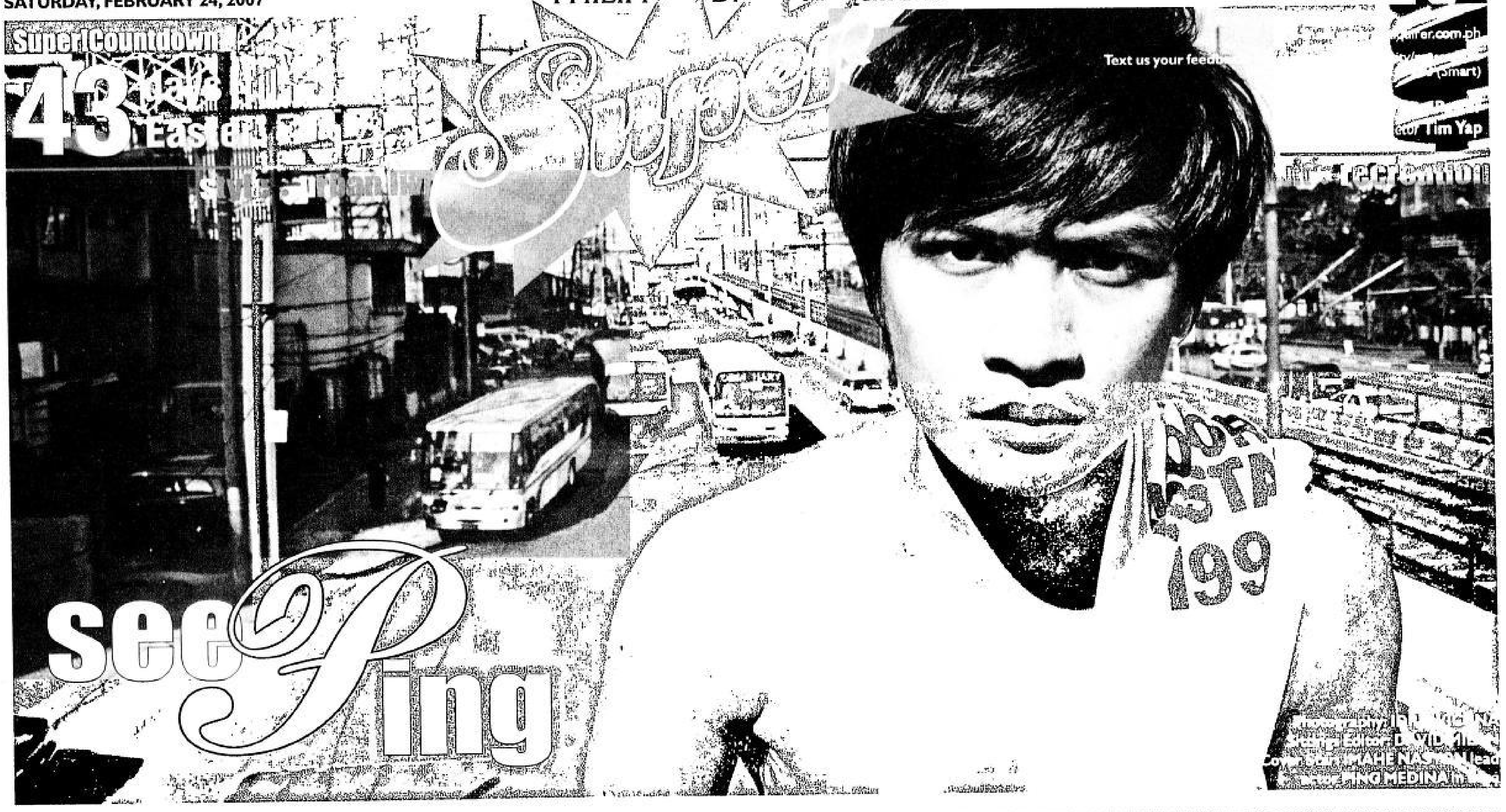
Building world-class condominiums is our art.
And W.H. Taft, Metropolitan, Fairways and One McKinley are our masterpieces.

With our high-end properties lining up the metro,
people take notice and appreciate the value of our properties.
More and more are owning a Philtown work of art.

When it comes to building works of art, we are the leaders.

PHILTOWN
Philtown Properties
Building Masterpieces.

For Inquiries, call: 8182330 • 8181723 to 24
09178536539 or email us at sales@philtown.net


Super
Super Countdown
43 days till Easter
see Ping
Text us your feed
irer.com.ph
(Smart)
tor Tim Yap
recreation
199
PING MEDINA

SM ADVANTAGE xclusive

Renew your SM Advantage Card today and get a FREE Globe SIM

Renew your SM Advantage Card*at any SM Department Store nationwide and get a Free SIM Pack** from Globe.

Now thru Feb 28, 2007

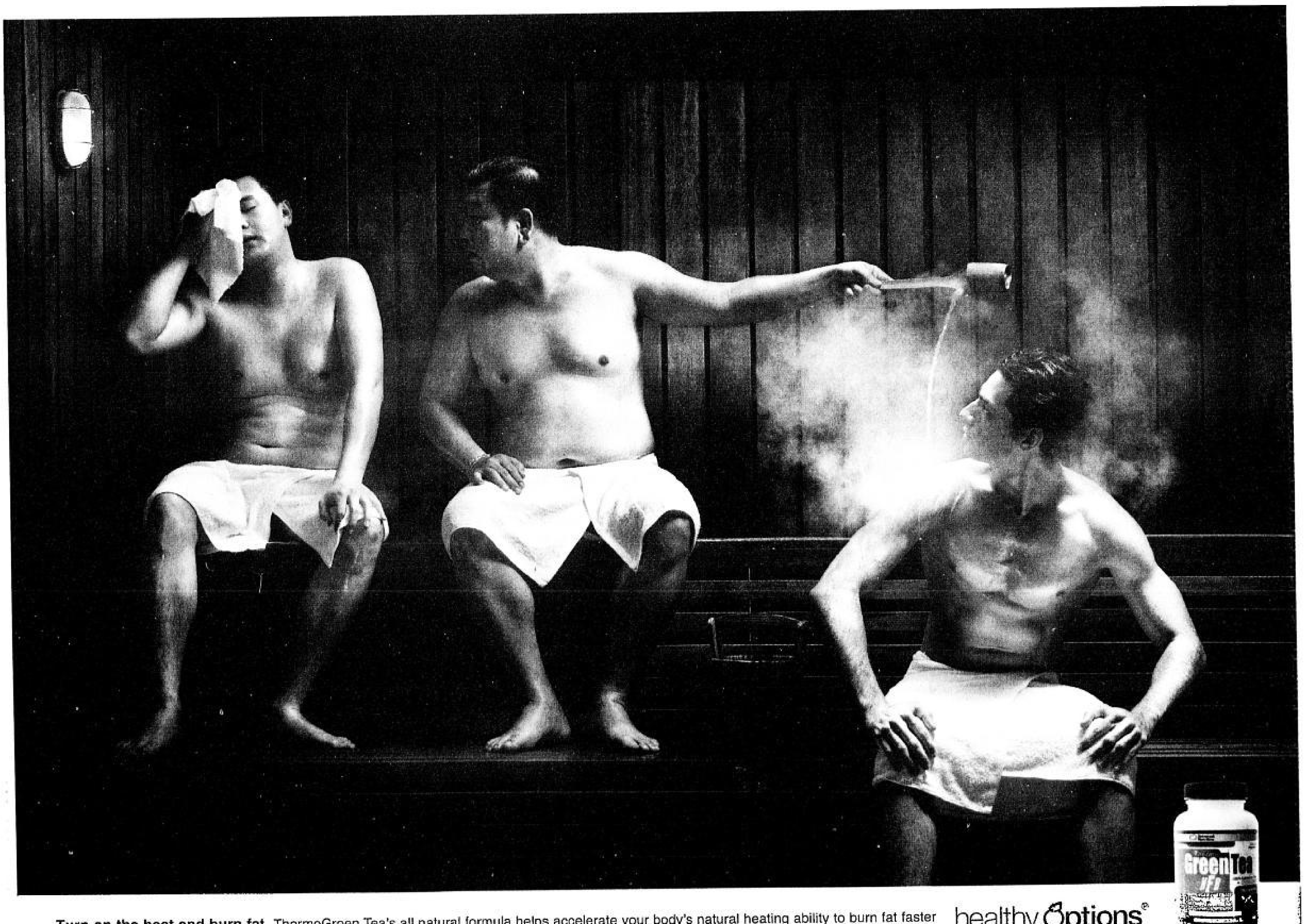
Plus! get P14,000 worth of coupons with your new card

ang lakas mo sa Globe

* You may also renew at the Customer Service Counter of SM Hypermarket Molino, Valenzuela, and Pasig, and at selected SM Supermarkets nationwide.

** Load P50 to activate SIM. Text SWERTE and send to 2888 for more details on your new Globe SIM.

Check this section every other Saturday for the latest SM Advantage promos and highlights

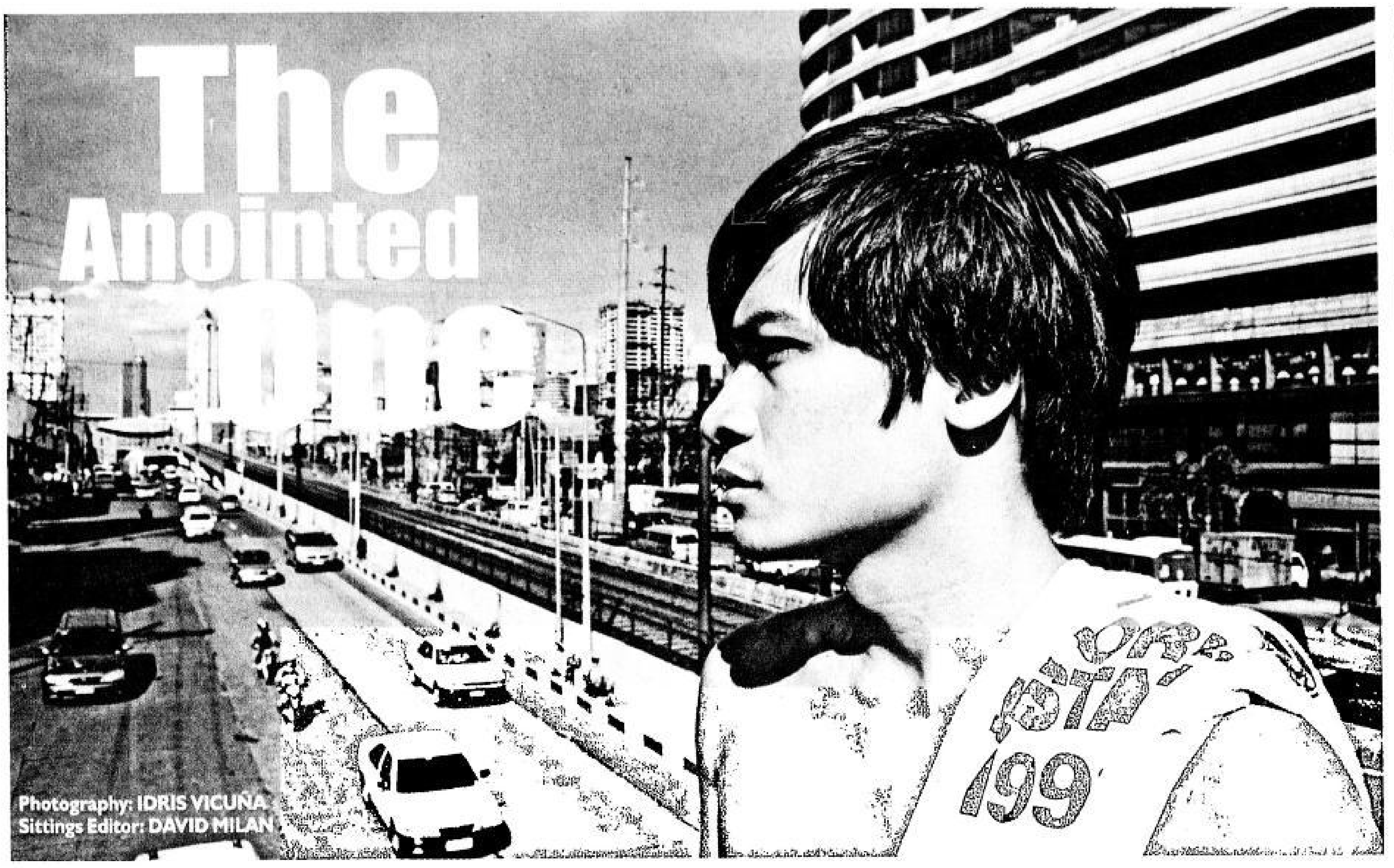


Turn on the heat and burn fat. ThermoGreen Tea's all natural formula helps accelerate your body's natural heating ability to burn fat faster and more effectively.* Available exclusively at Healthy Options, the all natural products store. **When used with a sensible diet and regular exercise.*

healthy Options®
The All Natural Products Store

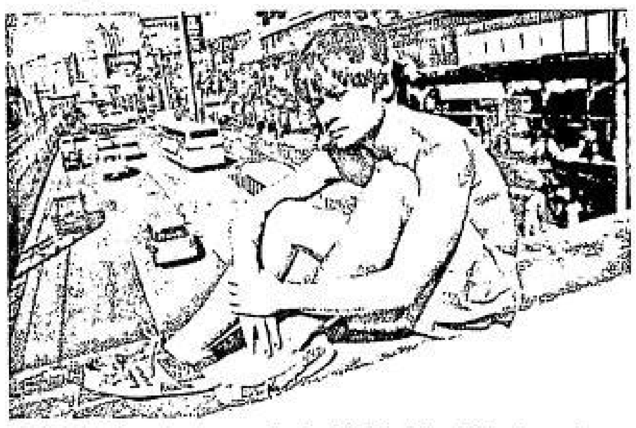
BFAD FR-43347

The Anointed One



Photography: IDRIS VICUÑA
Sittings Editor: DAVID MILAN

In an industry teeming with pretty boys handpicked to become the next matinee idol regardless of the lack of talent, Ping Medina stands out—as a beacon of hope and the future face of Philippine cinema



IT IS THIS attitude coupled with his intact ideals and principles that set Ping apart from a lot of other actors.

THINK of him as this country's Gael Garcia Bernal.

By Pam Pastor

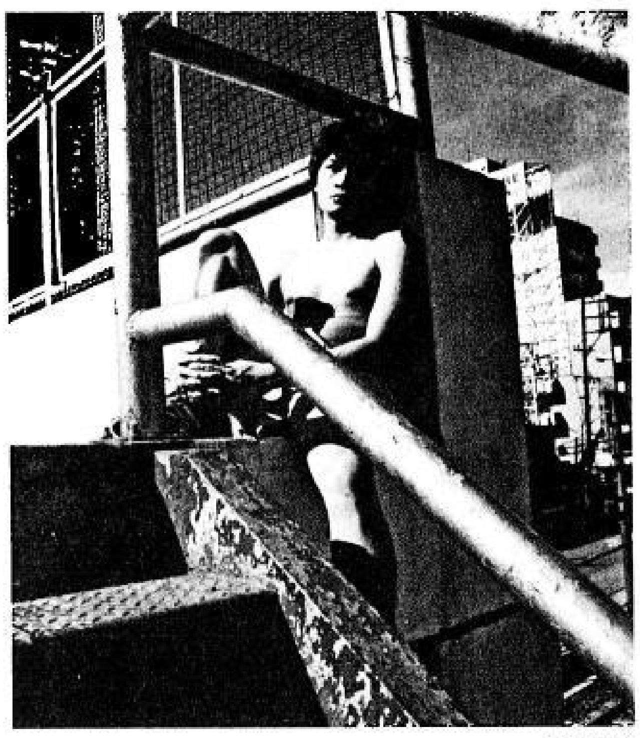
THE TRUTH IS, HE'S PRETTY too. Not Piolo Pascual pretty or Sam Milby pretty. Gritty pretty.

Gritty pretty in tattered jeans, an old shirt and worn out sneakers.

But being pretty is the last thing on Ping Medina's mind. The 23-year-old, whose first acting job was as the young Jose Rizal in the film by Marilou Diaz-Abaya, has bigger things to care about. Things like his Cinemalaya project with Dennis Marasigan—an ensemble film called "Tukso," in which he would star with Ricky Davao, Carlo Aquino, Soliman Cruz, Irma Adlawan and others. Things like playing the guitar and recording a demo with his band, Hello Ebro. Things like figuring out his real role in Philippine cinema.

Ping has been in the industry for 10 years now and although mall tours and provincial shows are not part of his itinerary, he does have a huge fan base. Actually, he has two kinds—the first made up of people who loved him as Kuya Bogs in Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros and the second are the people who have seen him on television, in shows like Etheria and the afternoon soap Makita Ka Lang Muli, both aired on GMA 7. He gets recognized when he's out and is asked to pose for photos and sign autographs but Ping finds a deeper connection with fans who he can really talk to about his work and about his passions.

And he has a lot of passion for his craft. "It's the thought of creating something on your own without the external powers, without the external hands."



Although he has dealt with being compared to his dad, the actor Pen Medina, his whole life, things are starting to change now. "I can't blame people, we look alike, *pareho pa kami ng ugali. Sabi ko nga, baliktarin mo man yung mundo, tatay ko pa rin sya*. But now people kid him and say, '*Uy, mas magaling anak mo sa'yo.*' He's proud of me."

Unlike many people scrambling for stardom, Ping's presence in the world of film isn't about making money. "My only goal is to have a consistent output of good movies. I want to be consistently good, maybe sometimes great, if that happens. But I'll be happy with good."

UNLIKE many people scrambling for stardom, Ping's presence in the world of film isn't about making money.

Although he's found more fulfillment with indie work, he has no problems doing mainstream movies, "As long as the script is good. *Kailangan maganda*, mainstream or not."

And when the right projects come, Ping is guided by his principles. "I would only stop if I don't believe in what the film stands for or what it says but otherwise, I'd just go go go."

We call him on a Wednesday night and tell him we'd like to shoot him in Edsa the next day—without clothes. "*Sige*," he said simply, like what we asked wasn't a big deal. It came almost as a shock—no negotiations, no hesitation, no uptight manager to deal with. He really is the opposite of every spoiled star.

It is this attitude coupled with his intact ideals and principles that set Ping apart from a lot of other actors. And it's not a conscious effort for him—it's just him being true to himself. "If there's something I'm not comfortable with, I'll say no. I don't want to veer away from who I really am. I can't do it, not even for three million pesos."

The very same morals will carry Ping through as he forays beyond acting. He intends to write screenplays, produce and direct films as well.

Think of him as this country's Gael Garcia Bernal. Think of him as the antithesis of every pretty boy who can't act to save his ass. Think of him as the anointed one. We do.

Ping Medina, actor

THE THING about fame is that people might actually listen to what you say, so be wise with your words.

The thing I love most about what I do is I get to play with a different character with each role that comes my way. I hate repeating myself.

People might be surprised to know that I'm a late bloomer: My first kiss wasn't until two weeks before my 20th birthday.

The most important thing I've ever learned is that life is temporary and we won't be bringing all the glory and riches we've achieved in this world when we go to hell.

I wish when I started off I've been told to treat my colleagues like potential friendships, instead of just people I happen to work with.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was that I transformed into this emotional vampire monster, thirsty for bloody pain.

And what this taught to me was everything is relevant. There are things in life that you simply have to go through. I would endure that same immense pain again if I had to.

The secret to happiness is not aiming for it. Truth and beauty, therein lies the secrets of the universe.

My best ever outfit consisted of my Nastase sneakers, yellow Moonstar88 shirt and comfortable jeans.

My Super! Saturday night consists of hanging out with the ones close to me, just talking or watching good bands.

The soundtrack to my life would include Bloc Party – This Modern Love

If I was invisible for a day, I would hang out in the White House. I want to know all the dirt!

The thing that makes me most angry is misguided passion. It can hurt people.

If I was the most powerful person on earth I would decree that all fuel engines be obsolete and replace them with hydrogen ones (the zero emission, H2O producing engines)

The best thing about family is that everyone is dysfunctional in their own way.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say he was a m

If money
hundred pe
a huge piece
put them th
community
land, vegeta
decentraliza
basics.
When I r
wealthy eno
causes, full-
the day we d
The worl
place if peo
their huge e
serve.
My heroe
very differen
amount of l
The thing
living is that
ple for the b
ignorance.
My great
just happy t
The wors
me was I ha
True.
My favor
know you're
you'll proba
My most
when I was
and sloshed
then was sw
I'm savin
ing business
um unit.
My bigge
yos!. Trying
My curre
Create stuff
opportunitie
life better fo
me. To touc
If someo
biopic it wo
Toro! Haha
My five t
tion, cynosu
I aspire
know I've do

'Imahe Nasyon' is a beautiful mess—then again, so are we

By Pepe Diokno

A NEWS SEGMENT ON ABS-CBN a few days ago is cause for alarm: a reporter went around a local high school asking students questions about the 1986 Edsa Revolution. One question was, "What happened in Edsa?" Answers varied from, "I forgo," to, "A rally." Another question was, "Why did the Edsa Revolution happen?" A common answer was, "Because they didn't like their president."

This week, we commemorate the biggest event in our country's modern history, and it seems like no one even remembers what it is. The 1986 triumph of peace and democracy over tyranny and corruption has now become, "a rally."

What is up with us? Twenty-one years after Filipinos united in order to purge a backward 21-year dictatorship, and where are we? This is the question twenty of the country's most recognized filmmakers got together to ponder over. Their answer: twenty unique short films, collectively shown under the title "Imahe Nasyon."

"Imahe Nasyon" translates to "image of the nation." What does this image look like? Well, it's a hodgepodge. Among "Imahe Nasyon's" music videos, narratives and works of video art is a wide range of stories told through the perspectives of a wide range of directors. There are experimental films, comedies, and dramas, a science fiction one, and the profound types. There are good films, there are gems, and there are one or two that are utter crap. (Which ones will vary from audience member to audience member.)

When different subjects and aesthetics meet, it isn't a very pretty picture. And so, on the whole, "Imahe Nasyon" as one tight project doesn't really pan out. I mean, if sitting through 20 shorts is a chore, imagine having to go from beginning to end, to beginning to end 20 times in the span of two hours and 10 minutes. It's tedious.

But then again, "Imahe Nasyon" is a representation of us as a nation. We have so many different societies, factions, and groups in the Philippines—that it's no wonder there are so many answers to "What happened in Edsa?" and "What has happened to us since Edsa?" And it's no wonder that the last 20 years for us have been tedious as well.

A second look at "Imahe Nasyon," shows you a play on the Filipino word for imagination. The question now is, if "Imahe Nasyon" didn't come out cohesive—if the twenty shorts weren't able to gel as one film—are we, as Filipinos, ever going to be cohesive? Are we ever going to be able to gel as one?

The answer to that lies in us. But the key is in being able to listen to other people's perspectives. And that is why "Imahe Nasyon" should be seen by every Filipino.

Super! spoke to "Imahe Nasyon's" creator and producer, Jon Red, and Milo Paz. Personally, I think we should all stop listening to politicians and just listen to our artists. In between the explosions and melodrama moments are pure morsels of truth and wisdom.

Where were you as Edsa I was happening?

Jon: I went to Edsa by myself. Carol, my wife, was eight months pregnant with our first child and was insisting to come along. Of course I didn't let her, fearing that there might be trouble. One year later, on Edsa's first anniversary, she went there with me and our baby in a knapsack on my back.

Milo: I was still studying at the UP College of Mass Communication. I remember going to Edsa with my classmates in Ricky Lee's scriptwriting workshop.

For you, what is essence of Edsa I?

Jon: Edsa 1 was about people, of different backgrounds, coming together to reach a seemingly impossible objective, then attaining this goal thru peaceful means.

Milo: Edsa 1 is basically getting back our freedom, the democratic space we have now. Economic progress is useless without this freedom.

Considering what we're going through now, do you think people have forgotten this?

Milo: The essence of Edsa will always be there even if some people have forgotten. It's just really hard to remember the essence of Edsa when people have empty stomachs.

Many people are starting to look back at the Marcos years and see it as a time much better than now. Do you think there is such a sentiment?

Jon: I am aware of such a sentiment. But it is just natural for people to make assessments based on their present situation. For some who were better off then, the tendency is to compare and put down the present administration.

Voicing out criticisms today is necessary and important. But the fact that these can be discussed openly is already a big positive step from where we were during the Marcos dictatorship.

Milo: There will always be people who will say that the Marcos years are much better. But they seem to forget that our freedom now cannot be compared to whatever "better times" we had under the Marcos dictatorship.

Most college-age kids now were born after 1986. Do you feel a disconnect between the generation that went through the dictatorship, and the generation that was born after Ferdinand Marcos was removed?

Super! talks to Jon Red and Milo Paz both award-winning filmmakers and collaborators in "Imahe Nasyon," an omnibus film featuring 20 shorts that answer the question, 'What happened to us after 1986?'

Jon: Yes there is a disconnection. Thus it becomes imperative that the experiences of the previous generation are shared with—and passed on, firsthand—to the next generation, which have its own battles to face.

Milo: These are two distinct generations but they are bound by the effects of Edsa 1 which is basically the sense of freedom that we gained after 20 years of the Marcos dictatorship.

Those who experienced Edsa 1 should always find ways and means to help the younger generation remember—why it happened and what happened after.

Are young people gonna get this film? A lot of the films had messages that were abstract and buried in subtext. Do you expect this younger generation to read into this subtext?

Jon: Yes. It is both an expectation and a dare. You never know what people are capable of until challenges are placed before them. But Imahe Nasyon was meant for people of all ages. It should never be too late to open one's mind to more progressive ideas.

Milo: I think they can still read into the subtext of the films due to their "MTV" sense of visual literacy. the younger generation are more exposed to the non-linear mode of storytelling. It's the older generation that might have a harder time reading into the subtext.

What do you think one's responsibilities are as a Filipino filmmaker?

Milo: The Filipino filmmaker will always have the moral responsibility to reflect in his films the things that are happening in our society. You can do this even if you're doing the usual commercials.

Jon: I don't believe we can set a general rule. Each filmmaker will have to determine his or her own goals and responsibilities, depending on his or her capabilities, limitations and opportunities. Some try to reach, educate and influence the widest possible number of people. Some experiment and make personal statements thru intimate films. Finding an audience, no matter how small, is secondary.

What is the image of our nation?

Milo: After Edsa I, it's really been downhill since 1986. We failed to make the most of the gains of Edsa I. Philippine politics has a way of always rearing its ugly head and spoiling everything. People are getting impatient. And another Edsa is not far off …

Jon: No matter how I try, there is no single answer. Each one of us will have his own answer. And if you're curious to find out the answers of some of our best filmmakers, than watch "Imahe Nasyon"!

"Imahe Nasyon" features short films by Poklong Anading, Emman Dela Cruz, Yeye Calderon, Neil Daza, Láv Diaz, Tad Ermitaño, Mes de Guzman, Rox Lee, Topel Lee, Milo Paz, Robert Quebral, Ellen Ramos, Raymond Red, R.A. Rivera, Lyle Sacris, EJ Salcedo, Sig Sanchez, Dennis Empalmado, Ogi Sugatan, and Paolo Villaluna.

It is showing at Robinsons Galleria's IndieSINE until Feb. 28.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

One thing or the other

'I Am Super!' awardee Lex Ledesma introduces a cool, new school, Ovvian Castrillo showcases her sculptures in her first one woman exhibit and I'm about to go back to school. Ladies and gents, it's time for a revolution

Tim Yap

OVVIAN Castillo's sculptures boldly display individuality and strength. Check it out till the end of this month at the Lobby Lounge of the Makati Shangri-la.

OURS IS A GENERATION that's nurturing of the next. We believe in passing on the torch and not carrying it until we get to our graves.

We don't just settle for holding the torch, we make sure that we constantly add fuel to the fire and make sure it's burning bright.

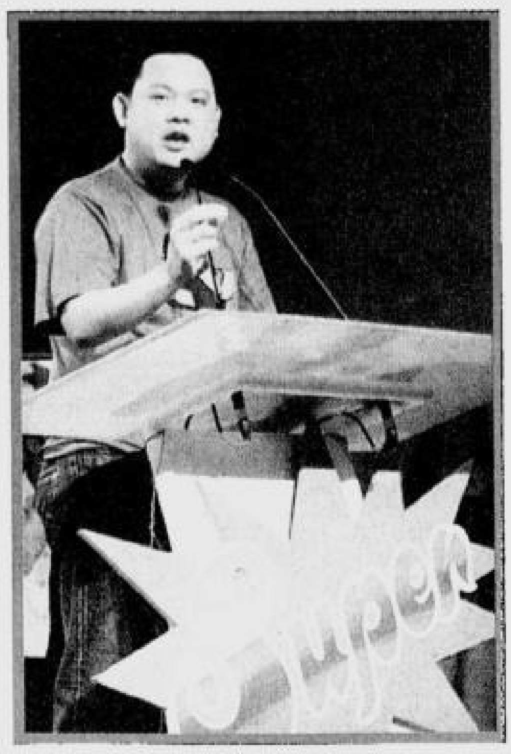
This, in contrast to the "old school" of thinking. GQ's **Charlie Porter** has this to say about this ancient mindset. "They say that whatever's new is a pastiche of their own glory days. Nothing is as good as it was in their own time. And because it's over for them, they talk as though it should be over for everyone."

Well, I say it ain't over 'til it's over. The Super! generation embraces the now, the new and the next—and that is why... I'm going back to school!

Yes, the daily grind of 8:30 a.m. (!) till 5:30 p.m. will be part of my daily schedule as I open myself (once again) to the rigors of academic life. The next time I bump into someone and they ask me where I just came from, the answer will not be "Oh, from some other party." I'll blurt it out loud, "I just came from school!" Knowledge may yet be this generation's best ally.

One passion

We shouldn't stop learning, no matter what age. Anytime is the best time to increase our brain use. Speaking of nurturing the next generation, 'I Am Super' awardee **Lex Ledesma** is one such guy I derive inspiration from when it comes to his belief in the talents of the next generation. His entrepreneurial skills have inspired his students, who have set up, DJ schools, non-traditional event companies and other innovative businesses that started with just ONE thing—their passion.



YOU ARE "THE ONE." Lex Ledesma invites you to join The One School

This passion for searching out one's potential has led Lex to open up The One School—a non-traditional entrepreneurship college in RCBC Plaza, which espouses the Harkness Method, an educational philosophy which has been used in elite US schools since the 1930's.

I've been privy to Lex's out-of-the-box views on education, and I salute this man for his vision. He goes as far as being with his students after-hours to get to know them better, to fully understand their needs. Think of it as enrolling in a school where you get not only a principal/ professor, but a surrogate parent (not an absentee one) who would really monitor your growth—he's that type of a mentor. I am continuously learning from his enthusiastic wisdom. "Each is encouraged to find their own beat and dance to it with pride. When young people are encouraged to find themselves and create businesses around their personal passions, it is truly a site to behold. The One School is different, indeed—it is a place where students become one with themselves," beamed Lex as he toured me around their campus.

At The One School, students really look forward to attending classes (no one feigns fever or wishes signal number three arrives) as their primary principle focuses on small classrooms and round table discussions (as opposed to lectures)—makes it more fun, engaging, effective and fun—similar to how the philosophers back in the day did it.

Interested? Call The One School land line 887-2828 or check out www.theoneschool.org.

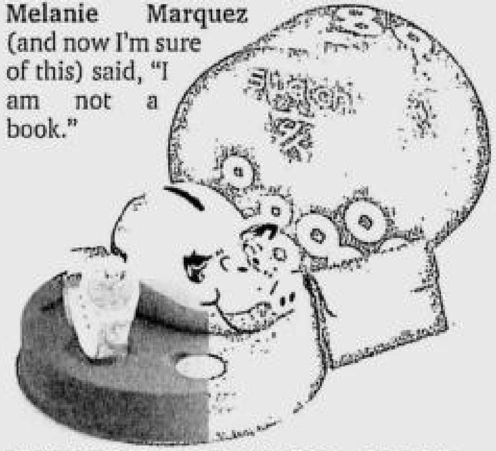
Ovvian Castrillo, sculptor

While we're on the topic of innovation, check out the first one woman sculpture show of artist and designer **Ovvian Castrillo** ongoing till the end of February at the Lobby Lounge Garden. Ovvian uses black iron and steel to translate her vision into breathtaking pieces of art that, just like the artist, never ceases to amaze me with her vitality.

Says art expert and good friend **Miguel Rosales** of Castrillo's work, "In her capable hands, the metals bend and twist, reach out and curl in, at times seemingly defying the weight of metals. Her themes range from the organic to the abstract, simultaneously exploring and exploiting the strength of the materials she uses."

In last week's Super! space, our title read, "My brother is not a pig!" a quote I wrongly attributed to our former Miss International. The Noranians rallied outside the Super! headquarters to tell me that the above-mentioned quote was uttered by **Ate Guy** in Minsa'y Isang Gamo Gamo. I stand corrected. Thank you, Sir **Ricky Lo**.

To the others that were outraged by the misquote, "Please do not judge me..." for as **Melanie Marquez** (and now I'm sure of this) said, "I am not a book."



MY BROTHER IS NOT A PIG . . . But this Swatch is! For money luck, Super! says—grab this Swatch, oink! oink!

a of his own.
was no option I would take a
ple from the city streets, buy
of land in the province, then
re to create a self-sustaining
with its own fish pond, farm-
ble gardens, etc. It's all about
ion and bringing it back to.

tire, I would like to be
gh to pursue humanitarian
ime. There is no resting 'til
e.
I would be a much better
le learned how to forget
os and just listen and ob-

s are my parents. They are
t, but I have the same
ve and respect for them.
that makes my life worth
I know I can influence peo-
tter. Help people overcome

st hope for the future is I'm
ere is still a future!
t thing somebody said about
d no facial expressions. Not

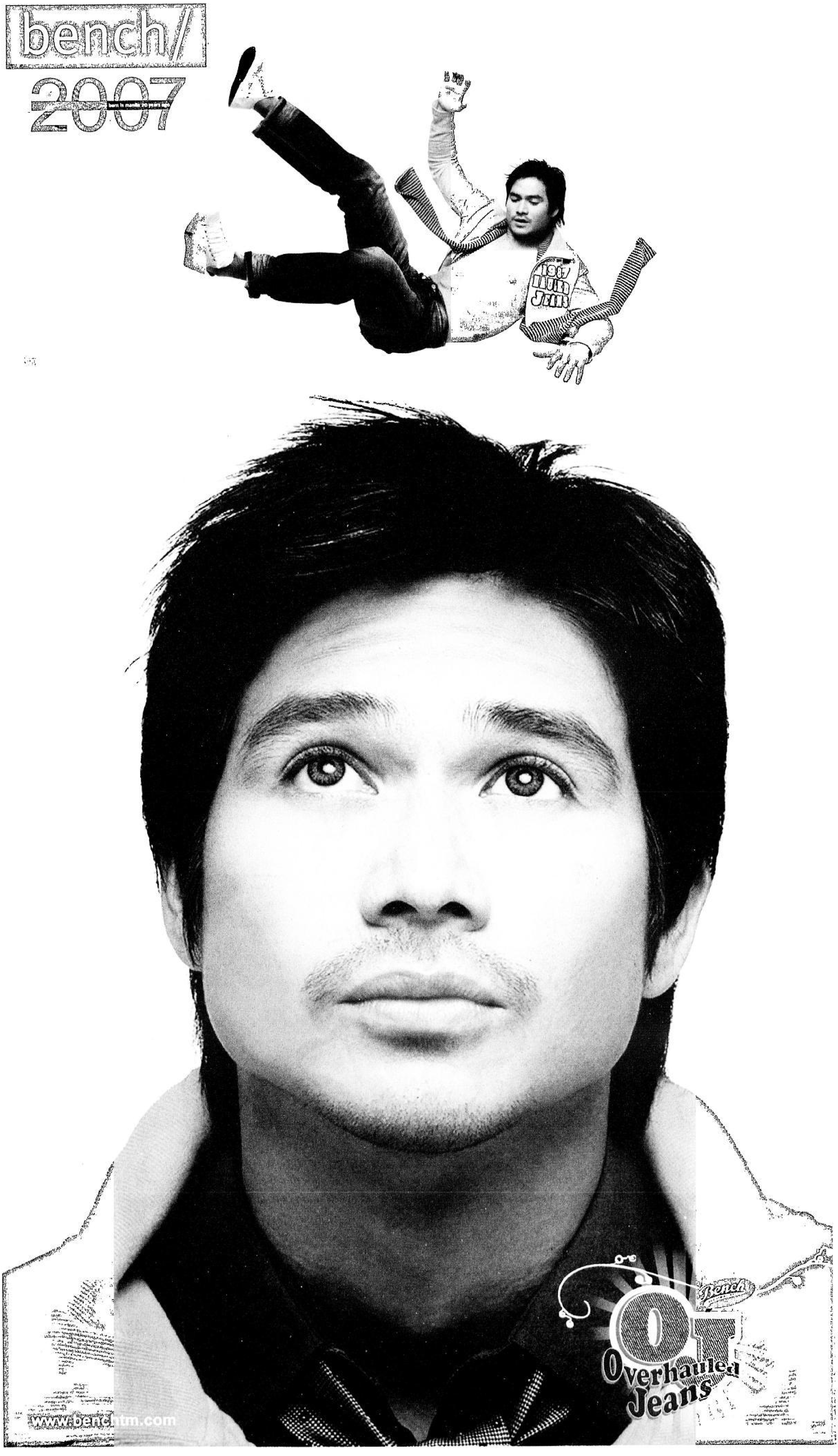
e moments are when you
in love with that person, but
ly hate her again tomorrow
embarrassing moment was
aving intestinal problems
my PE shorts. And PE back
imming, so great.
p up for a good self-sustain
and rent-to-own condomini-

t indulgence [illegible]
o kick the habit.
t state of mind [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
lives.
would [illegible]
[illegible]

vorite words [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

You make meal times completely satisfying.
Every RED MEAL DEAL by Red Ribbon
comes with a drink and dessert - a delectable slice of cake.
So it's sure to satisfy your craving for great meals and good value.
Pan-grilled Chops
Salisbury Steak
Savory Tocino
Creamy Carbonara
Cheesy Lasagna
Palabok
It's more beautiful with a Red Ribbon
Whether it's breakfast, lunch or dinner...

BEST COPY AVAILABLE


bench/
2007
born in manila 20 years ago
Bench
OT
Overhauled Jeans
www.benchtm.com

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

Text us your feedback: inquirer sat name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

The short and tragic life of Anna Nicole Smith

By Nestor U. Torre

IN THE COURSE OF HER ALL TOO BRIEF life, Hollywood star and scandal magnet Anna Nicole Smith was consumed by many unusual involvements.

She started out as a stripper and "poor man's Marilyn Monroe" wannabe. Then, she upped and married the exceedingly wealthy J. Howard Marshall, who was old enough to be her *grand*father!

Financial arrangement

Most everyone "knew" that the marriage was a financial arrangement. So, when the old man died a few years after, they expected Smith to end up as a very rich young woman.

—Well, over his family members' dead bodies! They hated the "avaricious" Anna Nicole with a vengeance, and made it exceedingly difficult for her to get her "claws" on his multi-millions.

Even after she finally became incredibly wealthy, difficulty and even tragedy continued to hound Smith. She sometimes looked zonked when she appeared in public, so people concluded that she was high on drugs.

She became a vicious national and even global joke, the negative-epitome of a cheap starlet gone bad and very wrong. As she made a mess of herself in public, the world raised its eyebrows and snickered. There could be neither hope nor salvation for this beautiful but pathetic overgrasper and underachiever!

Then, last year, the cheap joke who was Anna Nicole Smith suddenly turned tragic when her son, Daniel, died only a few days after she had given birth to her youngest child.

The suddenness of his passing, and the cruel juxtaposition of birth and death within the same week, jolted the world into shocked attention. Nobody was giggling now, and everybody was trying to understand the colossal significance of what had just happened to Smith.

Inconsolable

For her part, Anna Nicole was inconsolable as she mourned her son's death, even as she tried to be a good mother to her newly born daughter.

Everyone's heart went out to her—until she started granting weepy and zonked-out interviews that soon turned pathos into bathos.

The situation got even stickier when sundry old boyfriends started crawling out of the woodwork, each one of them claiming paternity of Smith's child.

SMITH. Maddening montage of tragic twists and tweaks.

Was it belated parental love that impelled them? Not having been born yesterday, most everyone suspected that the mother and child's mega-millions may have had *something* to do with it.

Then, everything hit rock bottom when, some days ago, Anna Nicole herself suddenly died, in a shocking coda to her son's death last year. Were the gods of tragedy in spaced-out overdrive and hell-bent on *hara-kiri*?! It was too much for one family to take—and the world itself had a pretty tough time absorbing the maddening montage of tragic twists and tweaks, as well.

Respite

Everyone needs a respite from so much empathetic pain—and we don't mean a vacation in the Bahamas! All parties involved or belatedly jumping onto the bathetic bandwagon, cool it, please. Let the universe reestablish some sort of psychic order, before the roof starts caving in on us again!

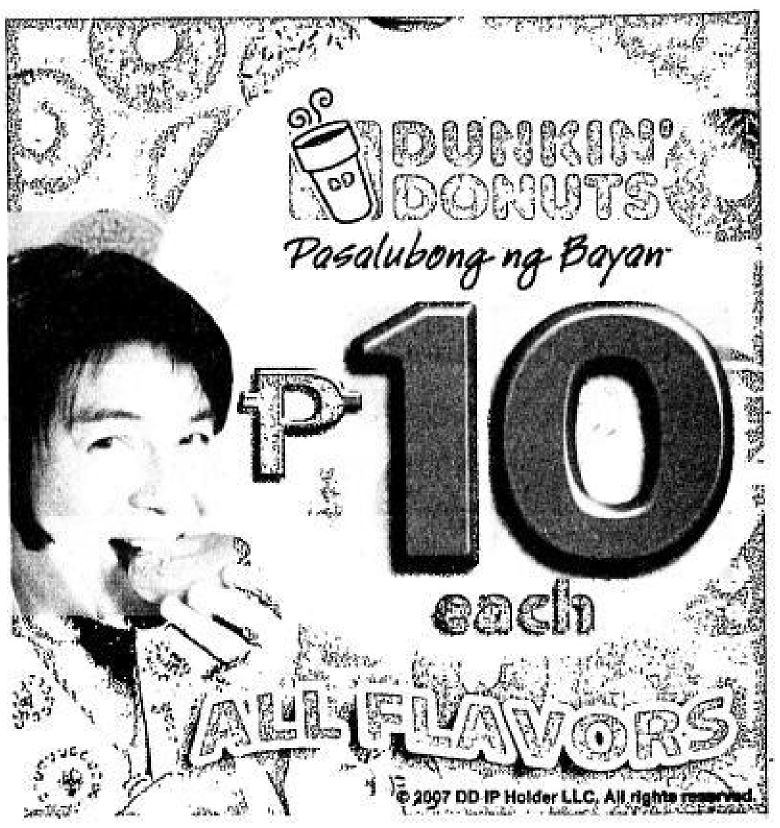
Sadly, we aren't even going to get that plaintive wish. This week, even more putative fathers have stepped forward to claim paternity of poor Anna Nicole's orphaned daughter!

As for Anna Nicole herself, she can't even rest in peace just yet, due to a heartless court order that commands her body to make itself available for a possible DNA test!

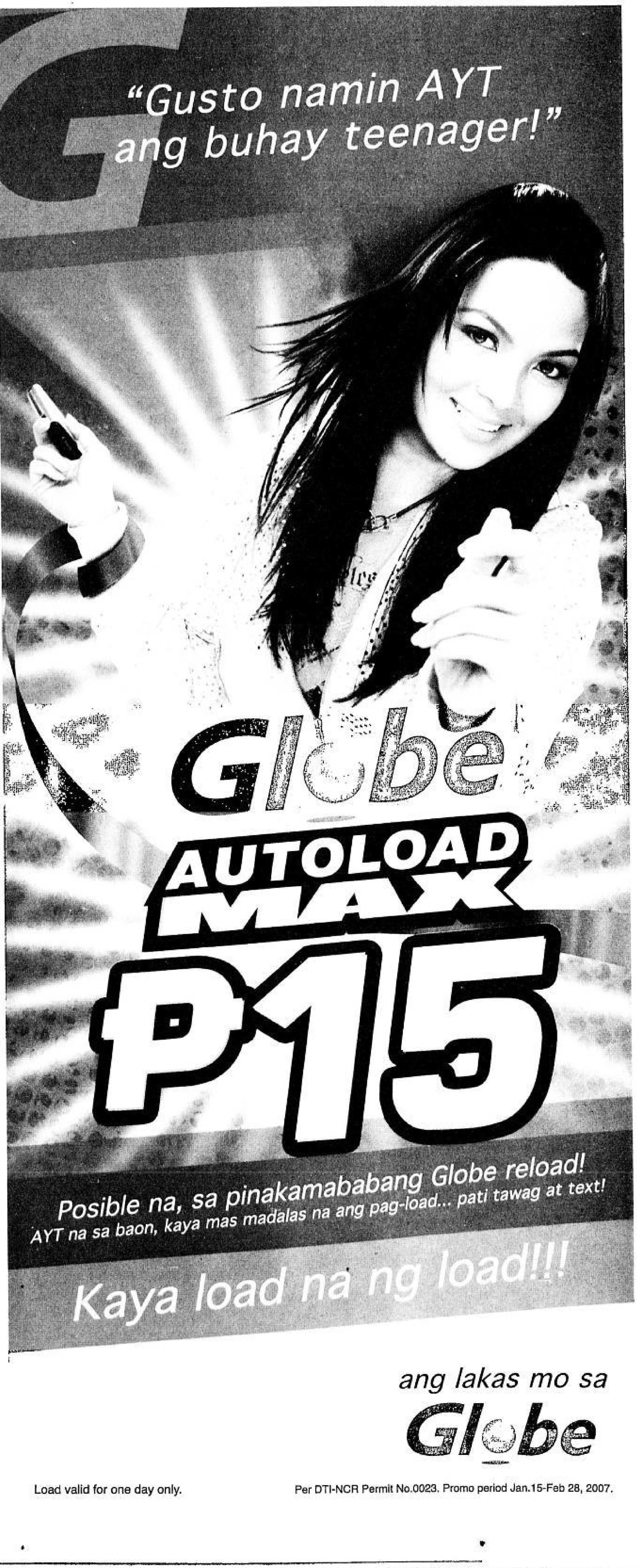
Alas, poor Euripides, Shakespeare, Poe, Antonioni, Altman—turn in your tragedian masks, because they have effectively been sundered and rendered picayune by Anna Nicole's *uber*-mega-super-tragic life and death.

In the face of such impish shaftings by the fickle finger of fate, what *are* we to do? Can we hope to salvage even an iota of sense and meaning from such awesome grotesqueries? And, when will Anna Nicole Smith be finally able to *rest* in peace?

God, grant her peace.



© 2007 DD IP Holder LLC, All rights reserved.



"Gusto namin AYT ang buhay teenager!"
Globe
AUTOLOAD MAX
P15
Posible na, sa pinakamababang Globe reload!
AYT na sa baon, kaya mas madalas na ang pag-load... pati tawag at text!
Kaya load na ng load!!!
ang lakas mo sa
Globe
Load valid for one day only.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0023. Promo period Jan.15-Feb 28, 2007.

what's next
@
SM
MEGAMALL
Mega lucky in Love
Sofia
Pops fernandez
Feb. 24 • Sat • 6pm
Feb. 28 • Wed • 5pm

TV ratings figures analyzed

By Nestor U. Torre

GMA-7'S RECENT RATINGS REport shows that, as of January 2007, the channel was scoring 17.3 for Mega Manila, as opposed to ABS-CBN's 14.1. What about the provincial figures? We trust that they will soon be forthcoming.

The report lists 13 GMA-7 shows in the Top 20, including the first four—"Asian Treasures," "Captain Barbell," "24 Oras" and "Atlantika." The first ABS-CBN show to make the list, at No. 5, is "Sana Maulit Muli."

At No. 6 and 7 are GMA-7's "Bakekang" and "Imbestigador," followed by three ABS-CBN programs—"Super Inggo," "Deal or No Deal" and "Maging Sino Ka Man."

Variety

Notes on the Top 10: Six of the most popular shows are drama-adventure series, many of them of the fantasy variety. This indicates that the program trend isn't about to go away just yet, that's for sure.

That's unfortunate, since the fantasticating fad has adversely limited local viewing options, with some three to four primetime hours nightly reserved for pretty much the same thing—improbable, escapist entertainment.

"Asian Treasures" is currently King of the TV Hill, most probably because it's just started telecasting, so viewers are curious about the new kid on the TV block.

LOCSIN. Her action-adventure series with Robin Padilla is currently King of the TV Hill.

The other top series are about to end, so the "channel duel" will soon depend on how their replacements (for instance, "Maria Flordeluna" and "Super Twins") pan out.

Unusual achievement

Also noteworthy is the strong showing at No. 3 of the GMA newscast, "24 Oras." This is an unusual achievement for a news program, and indicates how effectively the show has "popularized" the news, for good or for bad.

"Imbestigador" at No. 7 is another impressive feat, since the show is a docu-magazine program, a format

TV/D3

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City
Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

GHOST RIDER **PG13** 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15	**BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA** **G** 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25	**EPIC MOVIE** **R13** 1:25,3:40,5:55, 8:10,10:25
THE NUMBER 23 **R13** 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25	**THE HOLIDAY** **PG13** 1:20,4:10,7:00,9:50	**MUSIC AND LYRICS** **PG13** 12:50,3:15,5:40, 8:05,10:30

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE· FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41

Eastwood City
Psychics' Festival
EXTENDED UNTIL
FEB. 25, 2007
6PM onwards / Eastwood City Walk 2
Academy for Wholistic Healing Arts, Inc.
Eastwood City
Tel. 687-6770 to 74 • 0917-8-EWCITY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text eastwood and send to 2948 for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	**EPIC MOVIE** 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 R-13
2	**GHOST RIDER** 12:20, 2:25, 5:40, 8:25, 11:05 PG-13
3	**THE NUMBER 23** 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 R-18
4	**BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA** 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 G

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING G GENERAL AUDIENCE ALL AGES ADMITTED
THE #1 MOVIE IN MANILA!
FROM WALDEN MEDIA, THE PRODUCER OF "THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA"
AND PETER JACKSON'S WETA LTD.
THE SPECIAL EFFECTS COMPANY THAT GAVE YOU
"THE LORD OF THE RINGS" & "KING KONG"
BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA

SHANG CINEPLEX

① MUSIC AND LYRICS
MTRCB PG-13
12:30, 5:50, 8.10, 10:30

② BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
MTRCB GP
12.20, 2:45, 5:10, 7.35, 10:00

③ EPIC MOVIE
MTRCB R-13
12.20, 2.45, 5.10, 7 35, 10:00

④ THE NUMBER 23
MTRCB R-13
12 40, 3 00, 5 20, 7.40, 10.00

PREMIERE THEATRE
GHOST RIDER MTRCB PG-13
1.45, 4 30, 10 05

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special
A Blockbuster Gift for all Season
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Treat your family and friends to a thrilling movie experience only at the shang
Cinema Treats- for Cinemas 1, 2, 3, and 4
Premiere Rewards- for the Premiere Theatre

6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-7851, loc. 171/ 170 or 633-2227
for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS
THX
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification please call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 NUMBER 23	2 GHOST RIDER	3 BRIDGE OF TERABITHIA	4 THE PROMISE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA	2 MUSIC & LYRICS	3 THX GHOST RIDER GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND	5 THE MESSENGERS	6 EPIC MOVIE	7 NUMBER 23
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 EPIC MOVIE	2 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX NUMBER 23 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX MUSIC & LYRICS GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND GUARANTEED SEATS	4 EPIC MOVIE GUARANTEED SEATS	5 GHOST RIDER GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX NUMBER 23 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 BRIDGE OF TERABITHIA		
	3 EPIC MOVIE	4 MUSIC & LYRICS	5 GHOST RIDER	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 GHOST RIDER	2 MUSIC & LYRICS	3 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER	4 BLOOD & CHOCOLATE
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE PROMISE	2 BRIDGE OF TERABITHIA		
	3 EPIC MOVIE	4 GHOST RIDER	5 NUMBER 23	

At the Activity Center
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 9pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 9pm
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Looney Tunes presents Light, Camera... Showtime! February 23 to 25, 2007	Slimmer's World Healthy Habit 2007 Mall Tour Febryary 24, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Microsoft Vista Launching February 16, 2007	Philippine Grapplers' League 2007: The Resurrection! Febryuary 24, 2007

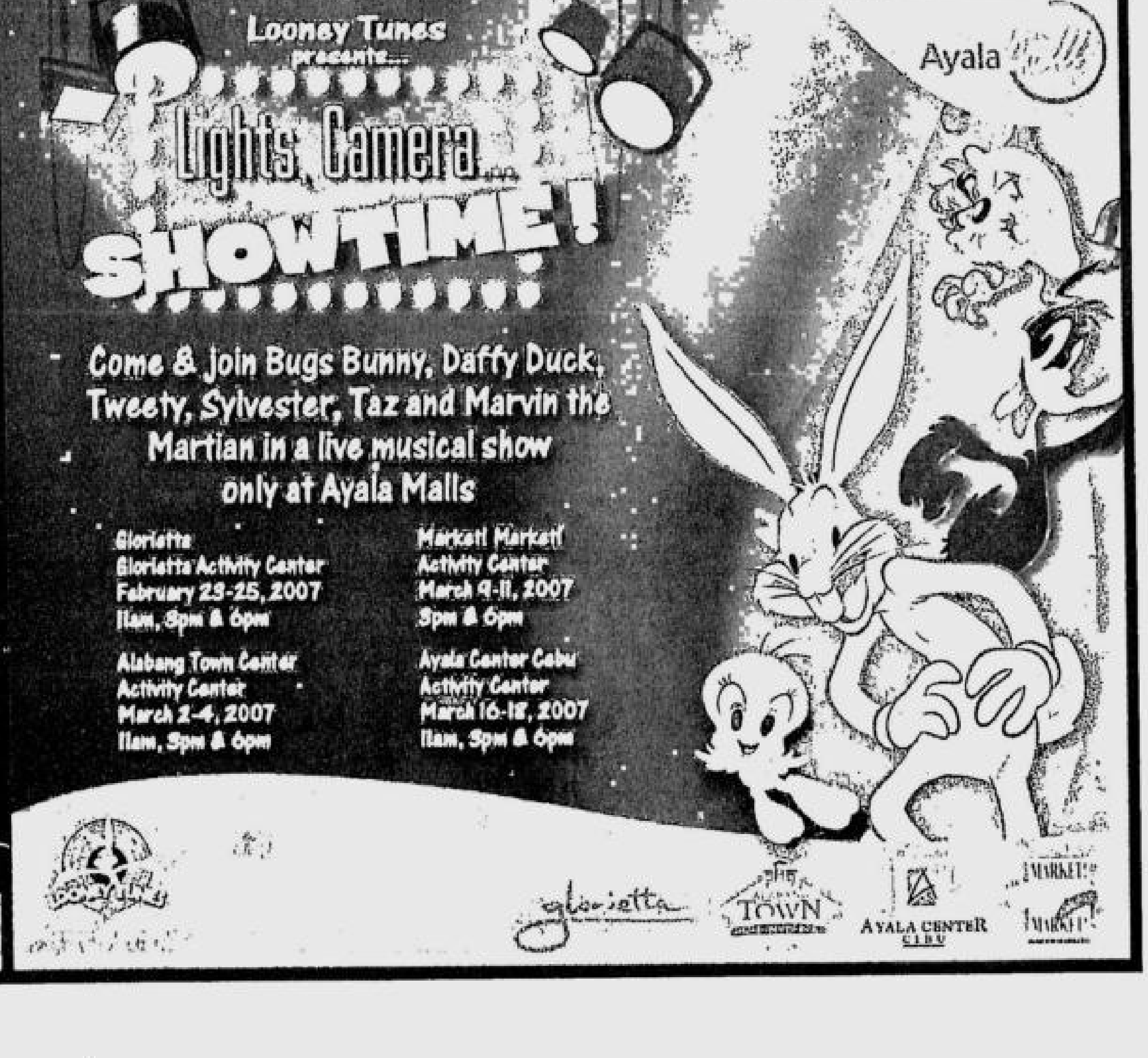
GREENBELT
Greenbelt 5 Sneak Peek presentsL Collection of Lulu Tan Gan
February 22 to March 4, 2007

Onstage
Repertory Philippines presents SONG & DANCE
at REP's Globe Theater - February 9 to March 4, 2007
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM
CHINESE DIASPORA: Art Streams from the Mainland (six shows)
February 15 to March 27, 2007
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

FROM ACADEMY AWARD WINNING DIRECTOR KEVIN MACDONALD
THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND
FOREST WHITAKER
JAMES McAVOY
KERRY WASHINGTON

NOW SHOWING exclusively at GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
Ayala Malls CINEMAS
WINNER
GOLDEN GLOBE®
BEST ACTOR
FOREST WHITAKER
"ONE OF THE GREATEST PERFORMANCES OF MODERN MOVIE HISTORY!"
— Joe Morganstern
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)
FOX SEARCHLIGHT glorietta GREENBELT



Looney Tunes presents...
Lights, Camera... SHOWTIME!
Ayala Malls
Come & join Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Tweety, Sylvester, Taz and Marvin the Martian in a live musical show only at Ayala Malls

Glorietta
Glorietta Activity Center
February 23-25, 2007
11am, 3pm & 6pm

Market! Market!
Activity Center
March 9-11, 2007
3pm & 6pm

Alabang Town Center
Activity Center
March 2-4, 2007
11am, 3pm & 6pm

Ayala Center Cebu
Activity Center
March 16-18, 2007
11am, 3pm & 6pm

glorietta ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET!

NOW SHOWING

Reality and fantasy collide in Jim Carrey's latest mindbender

By Rito P. Asilo

"The Number 23"

D: Joel Schumacher
S: Jim Carrey, Virginia Madsen

IN MARC FORSTER'S DELIGHTFULly Kaufmanesque "Stranger Than Fiction," Will Ferrell plays an IRS agent who discovers that he's a fictional character in a novel being written by a literary recluse (played by Emma Thompson).

Interestingly, Jim Carrey's character, Walter Sparrow, in Joel Schumacher's splashy dramatic mindbender suffers almost the same fate:

Soon after the kind dogcatcher receives an old book from his wife, Agatha (Virginia Madsen), on his birthday, he becomes convinced that the story of the book's protagonist is based on his life! But, the novel ends on chapter 22—and the last chapter has been left blank! What gives?

As secrets from his sketchy past start to unravel, Walter's esoteric obsession for the book's intriguing characters—from Detective Fingerling and the Suicide Blonde to the sexually adventurous *femme fatale*, Fabrizia—begins to consume him, and soon reveals sins of his youth that his mind has blocked off for 13 years!

And, strangely, everything seems to add up to the number 23! Every narrative puzzle piece seems to fit into his otherwise mundane life—*except* that the fictional detective in the book actually turns out to be a killer, which Walter is not! Or, is he? Are his fears merely the delusional rantings of a delirious mind?

Schumacher lacks the directorial vision and expositional skills of Forster, Darren Aronofsky or Christopher Nolan, but his ability to constantly deliver unconventional but accessible movies is not to be discounted.

With the unique, numbers-based rhetoric he utilizes to expose personal, philosophical, historical, and even biblical details, his "numerical" prose, while occasionally over-indulgent, becomes fodder for intrigue—and thrilling entertainment.

Carrey's increasingly idiosyncratic career choices ("Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events," "How the Grinch Stole Christmas") are served well by his pliant facial features and "malleable" personality.

He doesn't always succeed, but his cinematic forays into dark stories and flawed characters allow him to indulge in the occasional thespic stretch. He is ably supported by the beautiful but underutilized Virginia Madsen ("Sideways").

CARREY. Thespic stretch.

Walter believes that "there's no such thing as destiny. There are only different choices that define who we are as people." And sometimes, it doesn't matter if we don't get the happy ending that we all crave for, as long as it's *the* right ending. For some people, that's the difficult, first step on the road to healing.

TV . . .

From page D2

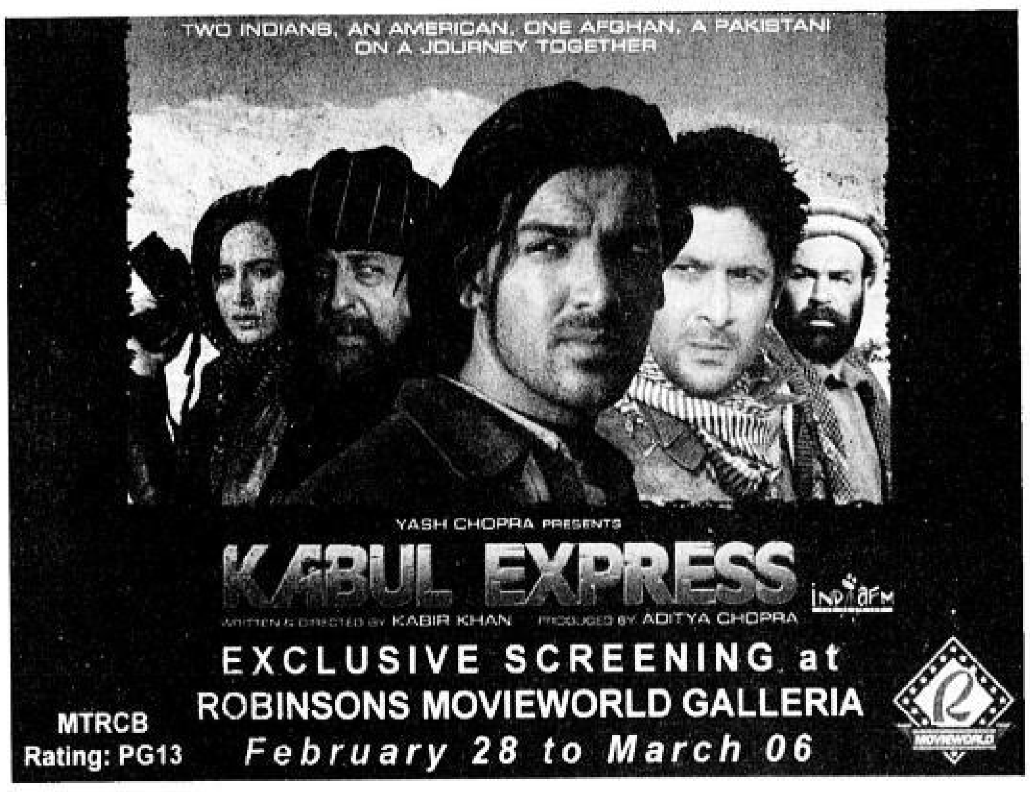
that doesn't usually rate high with viewers.

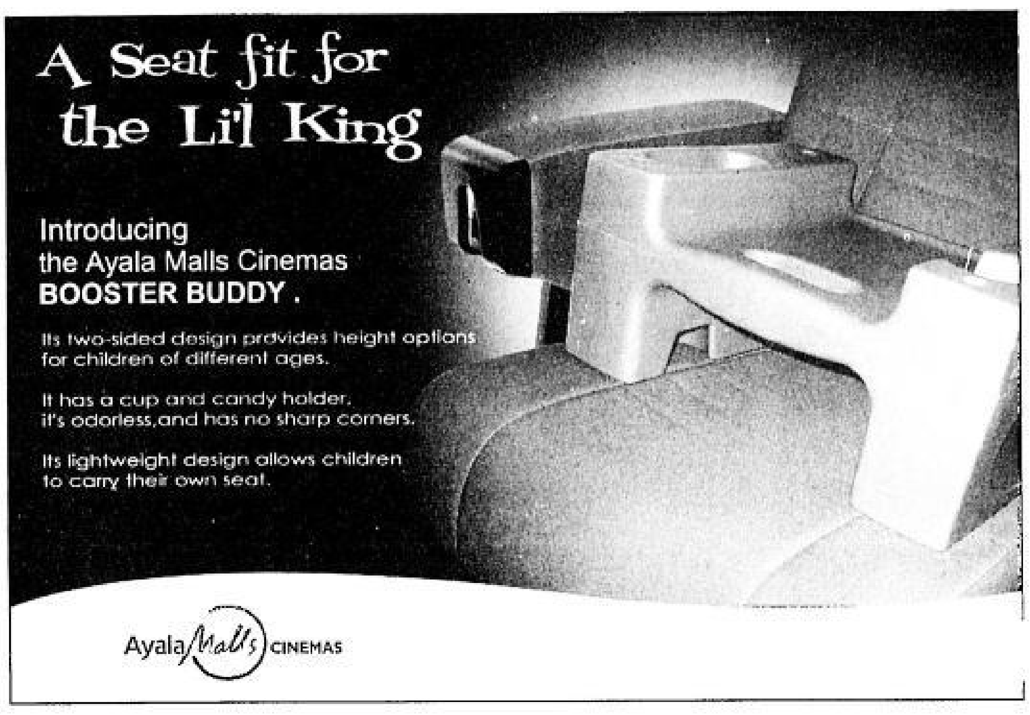
Finally, "Deal or No Deal" is the only game show in the Top 10 (and the Top 20, for that matter). It, too, is about to wind up its affairs, so the outcome of the ratings race for the next TV quarter is even more up in the air.

From No. 11 to 16, the slots are all filled by GMA-7 shows: the magazine program, "Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho"; Koreanovelas, "A Rosy Life" and "Jumong"; singing tilt, "Pinoy Pop Superstar"; noontime program, "Eat Bulaga," and evening Sunday variety show, "Mel & Joey."

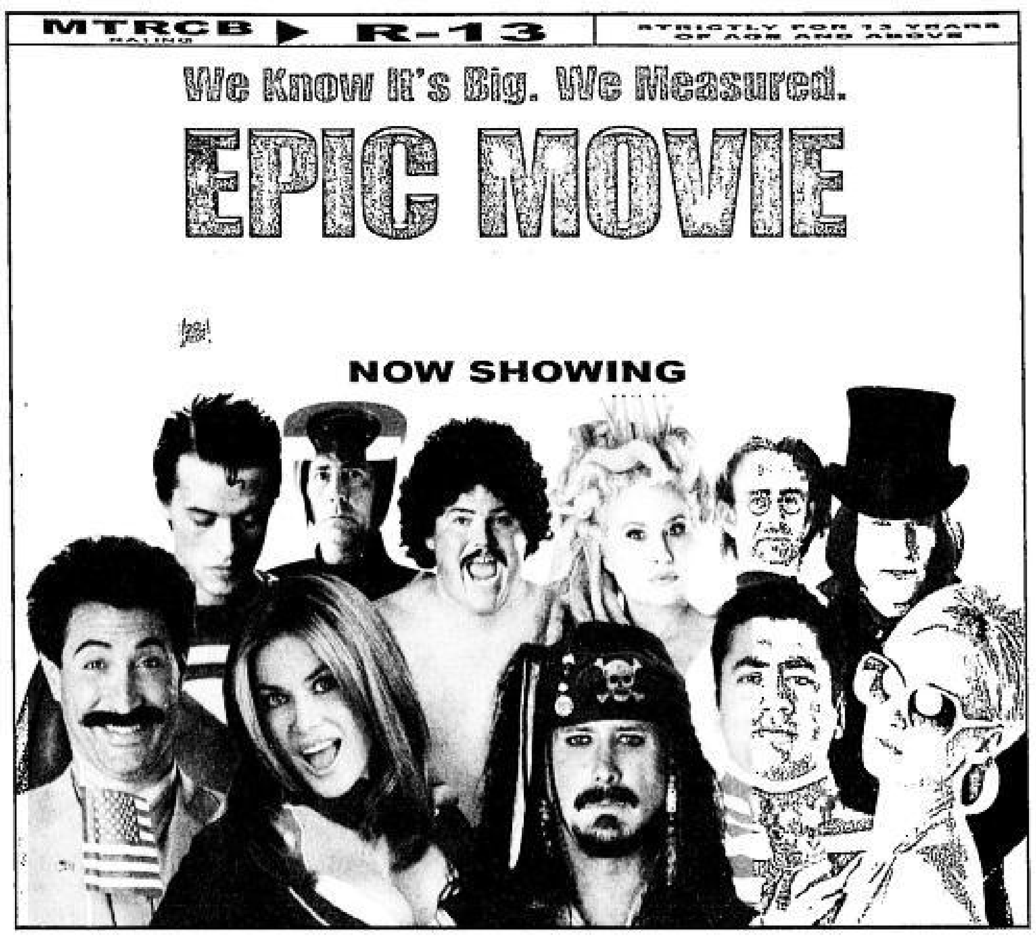
ABS-CBN follows with the drama anthology, "Maala-ala Mo Kaya," the crime documagazine, "XXX," and the newscast, "TV Patrol World." And No. 20 goes to GMA-7's

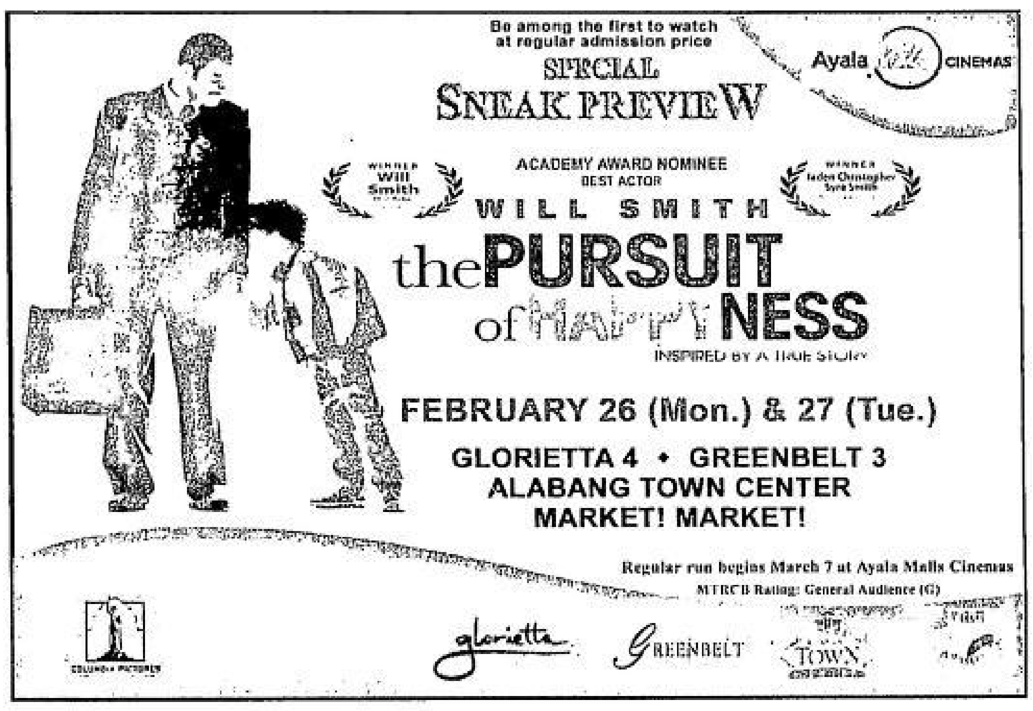
TV/ D4

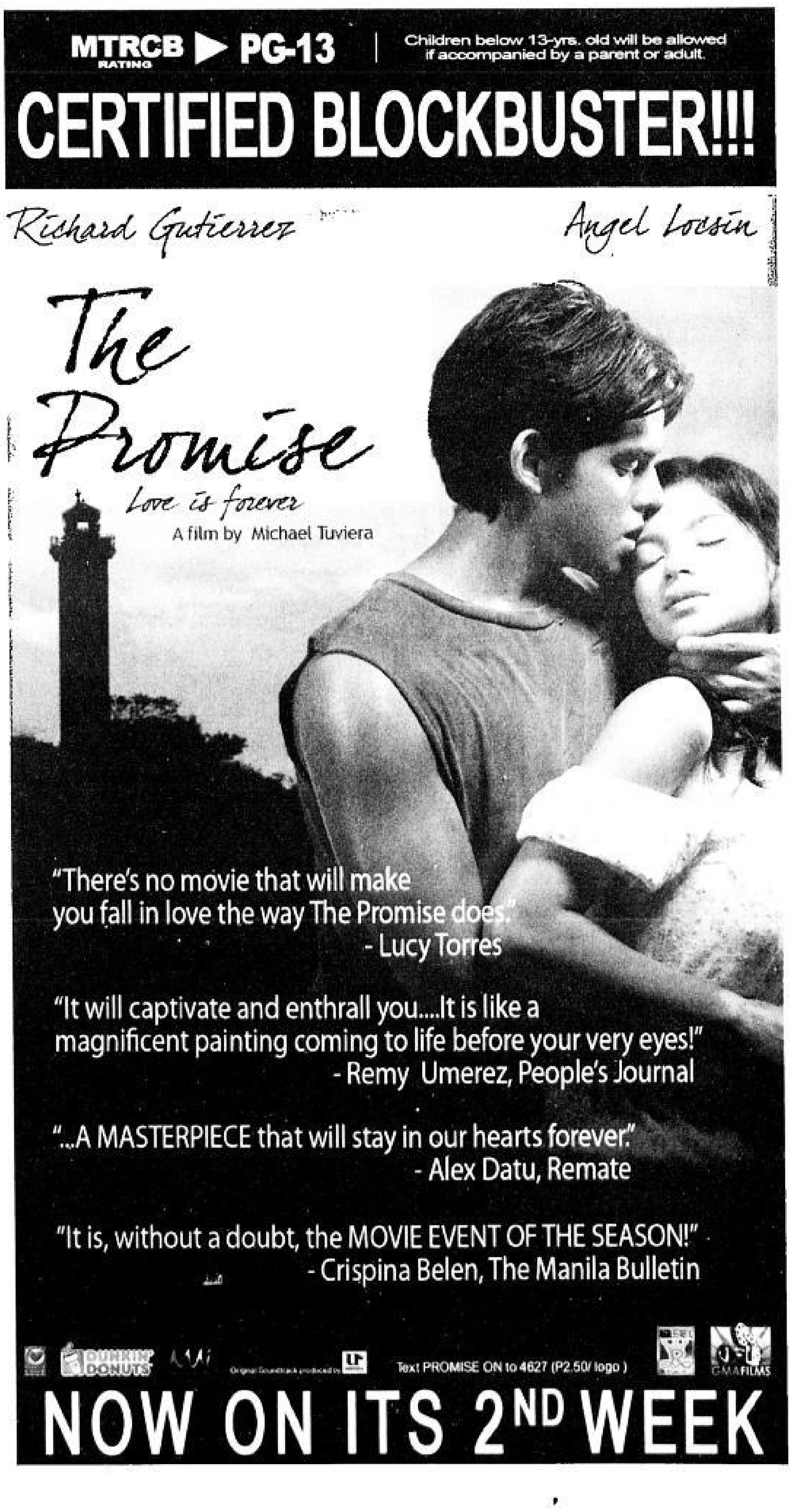

TWO INDIANS, AN AMERICAN, ONE AFGHAN, A PAKISTANI ON A JOURNEY TOGETHER
YASH CHOPRA PRESENTS
KABUL EXPRESS
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY KABIR KHAN PRODUCED BY ADITYA CHOPRA
EXCLUSIVE SCREENING at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA
February 28 to March 06
MTRCB Rating: PG13


A Seat fit for the Li'l King
Introducing the Ayala Malls Cinemas BOOSTER BUDDY.
Its two-sided design provides height options for children of different ages.
It has a cup and candy holder. it's odorless,and has no sharp corners.
Its lightweight design allows children to carry their own seat.
Ayala Malls CINEMAS

Ayala CINEMAS
GP GENERAL PATRONAGE
R RESTRICTED Strictly for 18 years and up
PG 13 PARENTAL GUIDANCE Children below 13 years old will allowed if accompanied by parent or adult
FREE CHARGE
Now charge your phone while you watch a movie only at the Ayala Malls Cinemas
glorietta GREENBELT


MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
We Know It's Big. We Measured.
EPIC MOVIE
NOW SHOWING


Be among the first to watch at regular admission price
SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW
Ayala CINEMAS
ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE BEST ACTOR
WILL SMITH
the PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS
INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY
FEBRUARY 26 (Mon.) & 27 (Tue.)
GLORIETTA 4 • GREENBELT 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MARKET! MARKET!
Regular run begins March 7 at Ayala Malls Cinemas
MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)
glorietta GREENBELT TOWN


MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13-yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
CERTIFIED BLOCKBUSTER!!!
Richard Gutierrez Angel Locsin
The Promise
Love is forever
A film by Michael Tuviera
"There's no movie that will make you fall in love the way The Promise does."
- Lucy Torres
"It will captivate and enthrall you....It is like a magnificent painting coming to life before your very eyes!"
- Remy Umerez, People's Journal
"...A MASTERPIECE that will stay in our hearts forever."
- Alex Datu, Remate
"It is, without a doubt, the MOVIE EVENT OF THE SEASON!"
- Crispina Belen, The Manila Bulletin
DUNKIN' DONUTS
Text PROMISE ON to 4627 (P2.50/ logo)
GMA FILMS
NOW ON ITS 2ND WEEK

TV ratings figures analyzed

From page D3

comedy show, "Bitoy's Funniest Videos."

Notes: "Koreanovelas" come in only at No. 12 and 13, indicating that their popularity may have ebbed.

"Eat Bulaga" is rating higher than its ABS-CBN counterpart, "Wowowee." And "Mel & Joey" is faring better than its ABS-CBN rival, "Sharon."

As for ABS-CBN's "MKK"—

TV/D5

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
5th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City Telephone: 633 2337 / 633 1851 loc. 171

1 MUSIC AND LYRICS
2 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
3 EPIC MOVIE
4 THE NUMBER 23

PREMIERE
GHOST RIDER

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 GHOST RIDER
2 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
3 THE PROMISE
4 EPIC MOVIE

Starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 THE PROMISE
4 DOLBY DIGITAL EX GHOST RIDER
5 NUMBER 23

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1 THE PROMISE
2 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
3 GHOST RIDER
4 BLOOD CHOCOLATE

THEATRES
Pacific Mall Lucena
Telephone No. (042) 660-5025

1 APOCALYPTO
3 THE MESSENGERS
3 THE PROMISE

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

1 THE PROMISE
2 APOCALYPTO
3 RESRVED
4 RESRVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 THE HOLIDAY
2 GHOST RIDER
3 APOCALYPTO
4 EPIC MOVIE
5 NUMBER 23
6 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
7 GHOST RIDER
8 MUSIC & LYRICS
9 THE MESSENGERS
10 THE PROMISE

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Nino, Marikina City tel. 9241927

1 (DOLBY) THE PROMISE
2 (DOLBY) GHOST RIDER
3 (DOLBY) EPIC MOVIE
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) EPIC MOVIE
2 GHOST RIDER
3 THE PROMISE
4 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
5 NUMBER 23

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 THE PROMISE
2 HANNIBAL RISING
3 TROIKA
4 CODNAME CLEANER

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 THE PROMISE
2 GHOST RIDER
3 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)

1 GHOST RIDER
2 APOCALYPTO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 CODNAME CLEANER
2 GHOST RIDER
3 THE PROMISE
4 BABEL

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 THE PROMISE
2 DÉJÀ VU

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) EPIC MOVIE
2 (DOLBY) GHOST RIDER
3 (DOLBY) THE NUMBER 23
4 (DOLBY) BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 EPIC MOVIE
2 THE PROMISE
3 GHOST RIDER
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 THE MESSENGER
2 THE PROMISE
CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 THE PROMISE
2 THE HOLIDAY
3 THE MESSENGER
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 THE MESSENGER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 THE MESSENGER
2 THE PROMISE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 HANNIBAL RISING
2 APOCALYPTO

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 LIGAYA KATUMBAS AY BUHAY
3 TROIKA
4 HANNIBAL RISING

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) EPIC MOVIE
2 KAKAIBANG KARISMA
3 THE PROMISE
4 LITTLE CHILDREN
5 GHOST RIDER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 SHAOLIN VS' EVIL DEAD -2
2 APOCALYPTO
3 THE MESSENGER
4 THE PROMISE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 HANNIBAL RISING

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children 13 years old and below should be accompanied by a parent or adult. Strong caution for parents due to sensitive subject matter.

"THE FIRST GREAT DATE FILM OF THE YEAR."
- Eric Lurie, Greenwich Village Gazette

"Hugh and Drew are hitting all the right notes!"
- Chris Tookey, Daily Mail

"Grant's impeccable comedic timing makes Lawrence's script a thing of beauty."
- Tony Medley, Tolucan Times

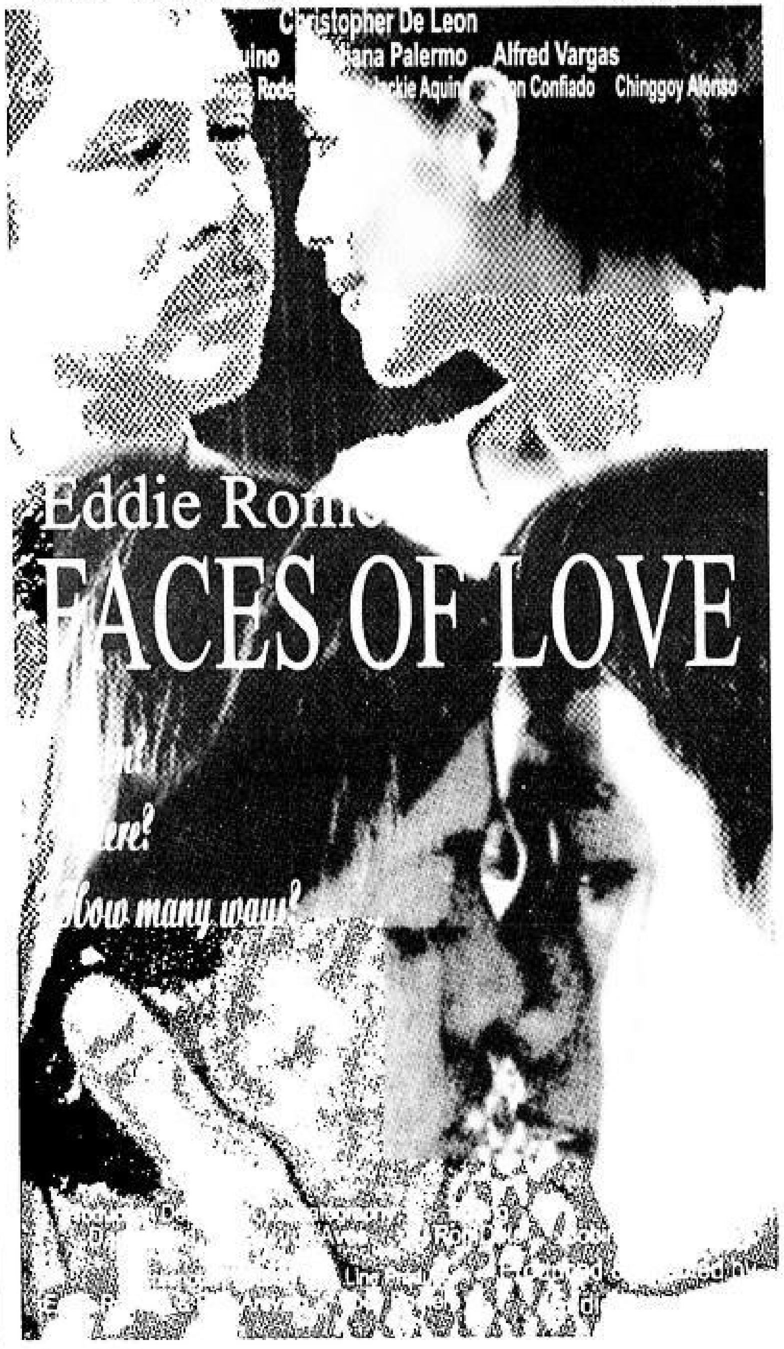
hugh grant drew barrymore

music and lyrics

CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH VILLAGE ROADSHOW PICTURES A RESERVE ROOM PRODUCTION HUGH GRANT DREW BARRYMORE "MUSIC AND LYRICS" BRAD GARRETT KRISTEN JOHNSTON AND CAMPBELL SCOTT CO-PRODUCERS SCOTT ELIAS MELISSA WELLS MUSIC BY ADAM SCHLESINGER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS NANCY JUVONEN HAL GABA AND BRUCE BERMAN PRODUCED BY MARTIN SHAFER LIZ GLOTZER WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MARC LAWRENCE

www.musicandlyricsmovie.co.uk

NOW SHOWING PG 13 MTRCB


Christopher De Leon
...uino ...iana Palermo Alfred Vargas
...Rode... ...ckie Aquin... ...on Confiado Chinggoy Alonso
Eddie Rom...
FACES OF LOVE
...ere?
How many ways?

TERROR BEGINS FEBRUARY 28

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP

HE'S 20 FEET LONG AND HAS TAKEN 300 LIVES. NOW, HE'S ABOUT TO RESURFACE.

PRIMEVAL

INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY

HOLLYWOOD PICTURES PRESENTS A PARIAH PRODUCTION "PRIMEVAL" DOMINIC PURCELL ORLANDO JONES BROOKE LANGTON JURGEN PROCHNOW MUSIC BY JOHN FRIZZELL DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY EDWARD J. PEI, ASC EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JAMIE TARSES MITCH ENGEL PRODUCED BY GAVIN POLONE WRITTEN BY JOHN BRANCATO & MICHAEL FERRIS DIRECTED BY MICHAEL KATLEMAN

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

---

WILL SMITH

the PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS
inspired by a true story

SNEAK PREVIEWS

february 26 to 27

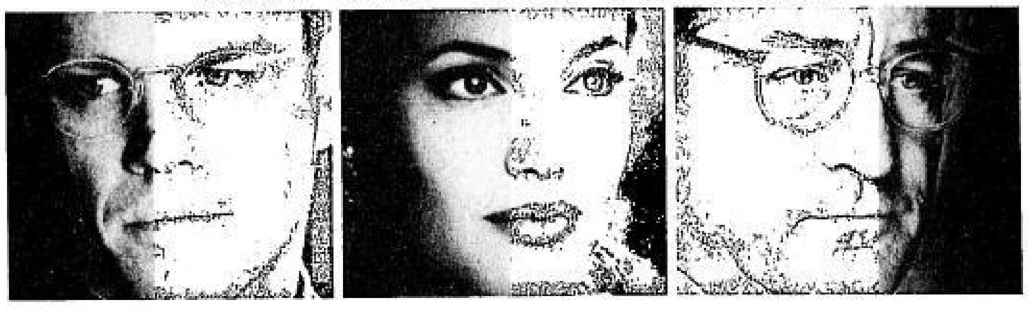
Robinsons Movieworld
galleria · ermita
metro east · novaliches
pioneer · imus
dasmariñas

MTRCB Rating: G
Regular Showing:
March 07

For SCREENING SCHEDULE, pls. contact our MOVIE ACCESS: 635-555 or visit us:

"THE BEST SPY MOVIE EVER MADE" ...LARRY KING, CNN

MATT DAMON ANGELINA JOLIE ROBERT DE NIRO
ALEC BALDWIN BILLY CRUDUP MICHAEL GAMBON WILLIAM HURT JOHN TURTURRO



THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The untold story of the most powerful covert agency in the world.

www.thegoodshepherdmovie.com

Release through Solar Entertainment Corporation

UNIVERSAL

IN THEATERS MARCH 7

United International Pictures

Araneta Center
aranetacenter.net

Gateway AliMALL FarmersPlaza

THE BATTLE OF CEBU
REY "BOOM BOOM" BAUTISTA VS MARINO MONTIEL GONZALES
INTERCONTINENTAL AND YOUTH SUPER-BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
Z "THE DREAM" GORRES VS FERNANDO MONTIEL
WORLD SUPER-FLYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

TONIGHT SAT / 7PM
GATES OPEN AT 6:30PM
ADMISSION PRICE: P300

Gateway Cineplex*10
gatewaycineplex10.com

BUY YOUR TICKETS AT GATEWAY CINEPLEX TICKET COUNTER

For reservations, call 911-5555 or log on to ticketnet.com.ph & aranetacenter.net

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

Gateway Cineplex*10

LARGEST CURVED SCREEN
70 FEET WIDE, 30 FEET HIGH

EPIC MOVIE 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:40	NUMBER 23 11:50 / 2:15 / 4:40 / 7:05 / 9:30	BRIDGE OF TERABITHIA 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30	Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
ASK THE DUST 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00	THE PROMISE 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40	GHOST RIDER 2:05 / 4:35 / / 7:05 / 9:50	
THE MESSENGERS 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00	MUSIC & LYRICS 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35 / 9:45	THE HOLIDAY 1:10 / 4:00 / 6:50 / 9:40	GHOST RIDER 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

AliMALL 5

1 EPIC MOVIE 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30	2 GHOST RIDER 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00	3 NUMBER 23 1:05 / 3:30 / 5:55 / 8:20
4 THE PROMISE 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30	5 BRIDGE OF TERABITHIA 12:35 R4 / 1:20 / 3:35 / 5:50 / 8:05	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

An inter-continental romance

ROMAN BRIAN Umali was born in Illinois in 1977, and grew up in Texas. He has a Film Production degree from New York University, and is currently a video producer in the Big Apple. RB is the son of Roman and Lina Suarez-Umali.

In 2001, while on a film assignment in Australia, RB met Cebu-born migrant, Mae Camille Quijad, the only child of Mirasol and Hedda Buot-Quijada.

Holiday

Because RB and Mae lived thousands of miles apart, their communication was limited to e-mails. It wasn't until RB joined his family on a Christmas holiday in Australia and New Zealand in Dec. 2004 that the couple "discovered" each other.

RB returned to Sydney on Mae's birthday in February the following year, and Mae went to New York for RB's birthday two months later.

THE UMALIS. Star-crossed hearts and souls.

RB finally proposed marriage on Dec. 17 that year. In February last year, RB flew to Sydney to ask for her hand in marriage.

On RB's 29th birthday last April 28, the pair tied the knot in New York. But, RB and Mae wanted a church wedding in Manila, which took place last Dec. 28.

The newlyweds currently reside in their newly-purchased condominium unit in Manhattan.

* * *

Join the Mandy Navasero Batanes Photo Safari from April 12 to 15. Call 899-1767 or 0905 251-1623.

Email mandynavasero@yahoo.com

TV. . .

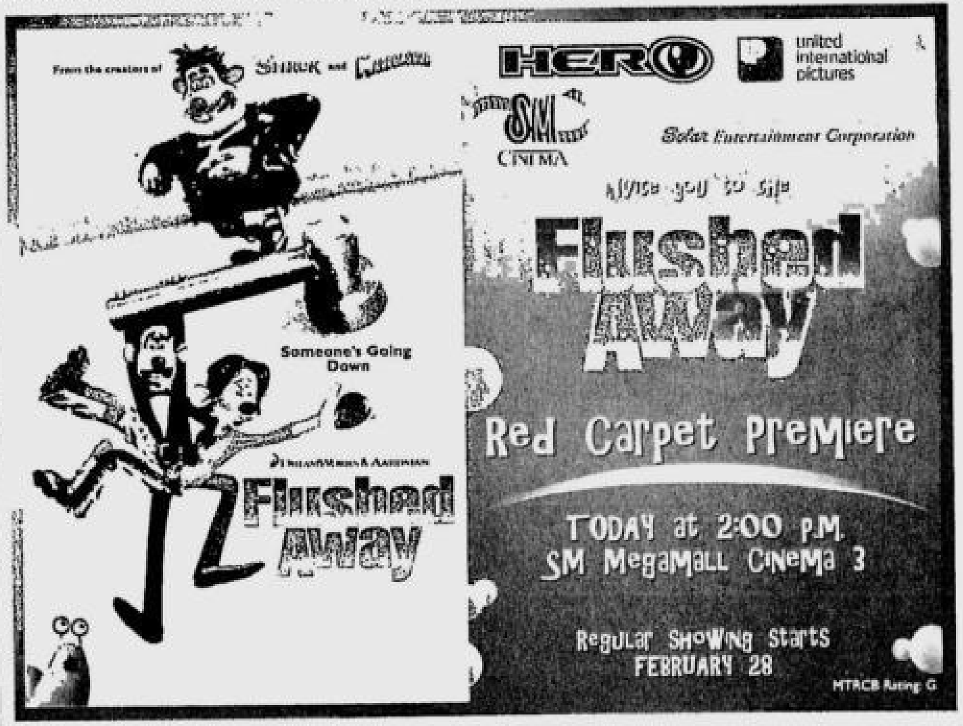
From page D4

what do you know—it's rating higher than its previous GMA-7 rival, "Magpakailanman." A small victory there.

Clearly, however, ABS-CBN has its work cut out for it in catching up with the new frontrunner, GMA-7. Perhaps this is the best time to do that, since many top-rating shows are ending, so the ratings could go either way the next time around, depending on how viewers react to the two leading channel's replacement shows.

SM CINEMA
SHARE A MOVIE WITH A LOVED ONE

movietime SHOWTIME
SM DIAL-A-MOVIE 833-9999*
Your life as a movie
BIG MOVIES • BIG STARS • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS



From the creators of Shrek and Madagascar
Someone's Going Down
DreamWorks & Aardman
Flushed Away
HERO
united international pictures
SM Cinema
Solar Entertainment Corporation

invite you to the

Flushed Away Red Carpet Premiere

TODAY at 2:00 P.M.
SM MegaMall Cinema 3

Regular Showing Starts FEBRUARY 28

MTRCB Rating: G

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104

IMAX
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2:15PM 4:35PM 6:55PM 9:15PM
Matinee Fee- P200 Primetime Fee- P260
T-REX IN 3D
11:45AM 1:00PM
Admission Fee- P200

1 MUSIC AND LYRICS
2 THE MESSENGER
3 EPIC MOVIE
4 NUMBER 23
5 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
6 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA

PREMIERE CINEMA
THE PROMISE
CENTERSTAGE
GHOST RIDER

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
CINEMA 2
MUSIC AND LYRICS
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452

1 FACES OF LOVE/ WWE
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 GHOST RIDER
5 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
6 NUMBER 23
7 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
8 THE PROMISE
9 THE MESSENGER
10 THE HOLIDAY
11 EPIC MOVIE
12 GHOST RIDER

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
2 NUMBER 23
3 GHOST RIDER
4 RESERVED
5 EPIC MOVIE
6 FACES OF LOVE/ WWE
7 THE MESSENGER
8 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
9 RESERVED
10 THE PROMISE
11 CATCH AND RELEASE
12 MUSIC AND LYRICS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
3 THE PROMISE
4 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
5 MUSIC AND LYRICS
6 NUMBER 23
7 GHOST RIDER
8 THE PROMISE
9 EPIC MOVIE
10 THE MESSENGER
11 THE FOUNTAIN
12 FACES OF LOVE/ WWE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 GHOST RIDER
2 EPIC MOVIE
3 NUMBER 23
4 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
5 THE PROMISE
6 MUSIC AND LYRICS
7 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
8 FACES OF LOVE/ WWE
9 THE FOUNTAIN
10 THE MESSENGER

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 GHOST RIDER
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS/WWE
3 NUMBER 23
4 EPIC MOVIE
5 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
6 THE PROMISE

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 NUMBER 23
2 FACES OF LOVE
3 EPIC MOVIE
4 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
5 THE PROMISE
6 MUSIC AND LYRICS
7 THE MESSENGER
8 GHOST RIDER
9 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
2 EPIC MOVIE
3 THE PROMISE
4 GHOST RIDER

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
2 NUMBER 23
3 MUSIC AND LYRICS
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
5 EPIC MOVIE
6 GHOST RIDER
7 FACES OF LOVE
8 THE MESSENGER
9 THE PROMISE
10 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
11 THE HOLIDAY
12 THE CLEANER/ WWE

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4322201-04

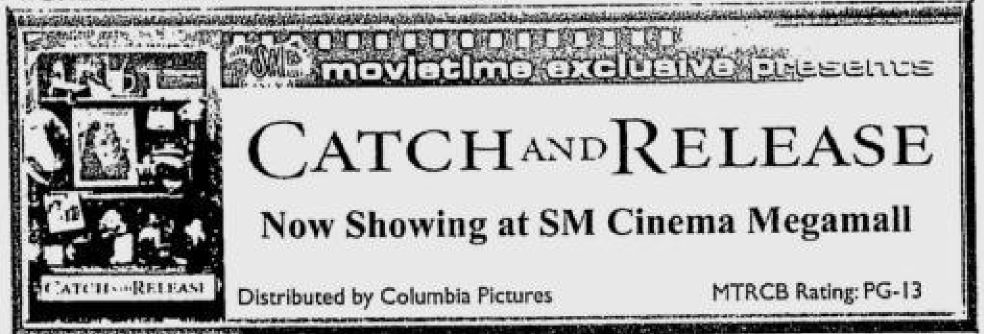
1 BABEL
2 THE PROMISE
3 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
4 GHOST RIDER

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE CLEANER
3 THE FOUNTAIN
4 THE PROMISE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
2 GHOST RIDER
3 THE PROMISE
4 EPIC MOVIE



SM movietime exclusive presents

CATCH AND RELEASE

Now Showing at SM Cinema Megamall

Distributed by Columbia Pictures

MTRCB Rating: PG-13

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 FACES OF LOVE
2 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
3 GHOST RIDER
4 EPIC MOVIE
5 NUMBER 23
6 THE PROMISE
7 MUSIC AND LYRICS
8 THE MESSENGER

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 MUSIC AND LYRICS
2 GHOST RIDER
3 ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES
4 BABEL
5 THE PROMISE
6 FACES OF LOVE/ WWE

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
4 THE FOUNTAIN

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 THE MESSENGER
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 THE PROMISE
4 TENACIOUS D

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1 GHOST RIDER
2 BABEL
3 THE MESSENGER
4 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
5 FACES OF LOVE
6 THE PROMISE

SM CIY LIPA (043) 756-7925

1 THE HOLIDAY
2 THE PROMISE
3 THE MESSENGER
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 THE PROMISE
2 ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES
3 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
4 THE MESSENGER

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES
4 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 THE PROMISE
2 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
3 EPIC MOVIE
4 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811

1 EPIC MOVIE
2 THE HOLIDAY
3 THE PROMISE
4 GHOST RIDER

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
2 GHOST RIDER
3 THE PROMISE
4 THE MESSENGER/ WWE
5 AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH
6 MUSIC AND LYRICS
7 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
8 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 BABEL
2 RESERVED
3 ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES
4 THE PROMISE
5 GHOST RIDER
6 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
7 RESERVED
8 THE MESSENGER

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 GHOST RIDER
2 FACES OF LOVE/ WWE
3 THE PROMISE
4 THE HOLIDAY
5 THE CLEANER
6 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 GHOST RIDE
2 THE PROMISE
3 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
4 BABEL

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SPORTSTIME
EXCLUSIVES
NO WAY OUT

WEEKEND SCREENING

February 24 • February 25
11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Witness it atll these SM Cinemas:

Megamall • North EDSA • Southmall
Mall of ASIA • Manila • San Lazaro
Fairview • Centerpoint
(Ticket at 150)

Cebu • Pampanga • Clark
(Ticket at 120)

Davao
(Ticket a 90)

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

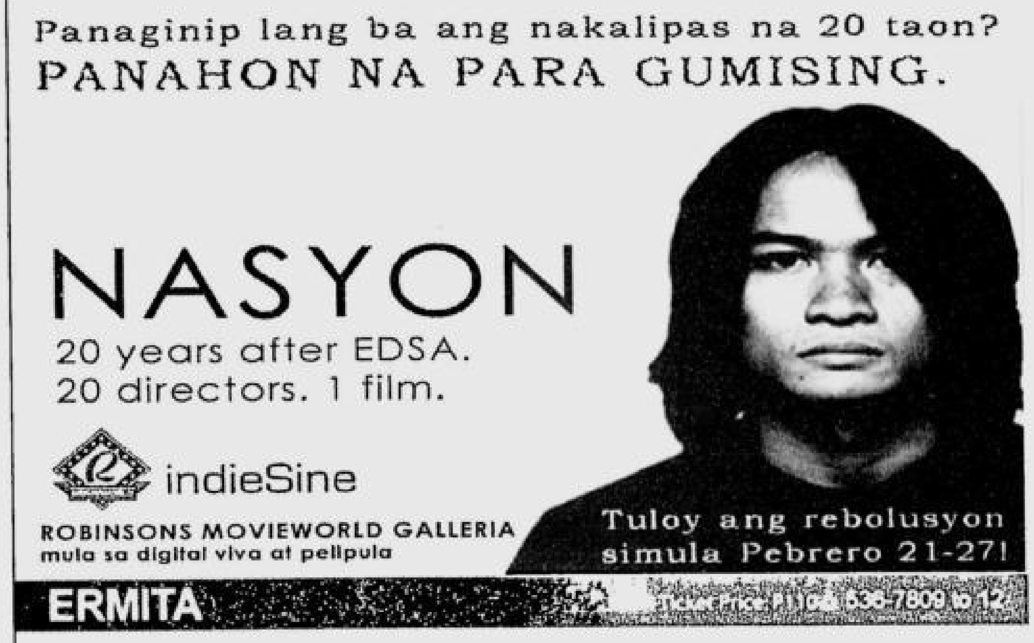
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

Ticket Price THX: P161, 131 Indie Sine: 101 632-9116

1 ASK THE DUSK • THX	12:15 2:45 5:15 7:45 10:00	6 THE NUMBER 23	12:40 3:00 5 20 7:40 10:00
2 GHOST RIDER	12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00	7 TROIKA	12.40 3.00 5:20 7:40 10:00
3 indieSine: IMAHE Nasyon	1.30 4:15 7:00 9.45	8 MUSIC and LYRICS	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 BRIDGE of TERABITHIA	1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10 00	9 THE PROMISE THE MESSENGERS	12 20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
5 EPIC MOVIE	1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50	10 FACES of LOVE	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00



Panaginip lang ba ang nakalipas na 20 taon?
PANAHON NA PARA GUMISING.

NASYON
20 years after EDSA.
20 directors. 1 film.

indieSine
ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA
mula sa digital viva at pelipula

Tuloy ang rebolusyon
simula Pebrero 21-27!

ERMITA

Ticket Price: P110 636-7809 to 12

1 THE NUMBER 23	12:35 2:50 5:05 7:30 10:00		
2 THE MESSENGERS MUSIC and LYRICS	12:10 1:50 2:30 5:10 7:40 10:00	5 EPIC MOVIE	12:35 2:50 5:05 7:30 10:00
3 BRIDGE of TERABITHIA	12:30 2 50 5:10 7:30 10.00	6 GHOST RIDER	12.30 2.50 5:10 7:30 10.00
4 FACES of LOVE	12:20 2:15 4:10 6.05 8:00 10:00	7 THE PROMISE	12 30 2:50 5:10 7.25 10:00

METRO EAST

Ticket Price: P100 682-8193 - 682-8199

1 THE NUMBER 23	11:30 1:55 4:20 6 45 9:10	5 THE MESSENGERS	12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
2 GHOST RIDER	1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05	6 BRIDGE of TERABITHIA	11 30 1:55 4 20 6:45 9 10
3 ROME and JULIET	12:30 3:10 6 00 9:00	7 EPIC MOVIE	11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05
4 THE PROMISE	11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9 05	8 THE FOUNTAIN MUSIC and LYRICS	12 30 2:25 4:30 6:50 9:00

Rome and Juliet
FEBRUARY 21 to 27
Robinsons Movieworld METRO EAST

This tale follows the romantic journey of two straight women caught in a web of forbidden love. Juliet, a conservative pre-school teacher hires Rome, a liberated businesswoman to be her wedding planner As they go through the preparations, the two develop a relationship that the groom to be soon finds out

NOVALICHES

[illegible] 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 GHOST RIDER
2 EPIC MOVIE
3 BRIDGE of TERABITHIA
4 TROIKA
5 THE PROMISE

PIONEER

Ticket Price: [illegible]-6376

1 EPIC MOVIE	12:05 2:15 4 25 6:35 8:40	3 THE NUMBER 23	1:30 3 50 6:10 8:30
2 GHOST RIDER	1:30 3:55 6:20 8:40	4 BRIDGE of TERABITHIA	12 05 2:10 4:15 6:20 8:25

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P75 / 80 (049) 837-0907

1 GHOST RIDER
2 EPIC MOVIE
3 THE HOLIDAY
4 THE PROMISE

LIPA

Ticket Price: [illegible] 90 (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 APOCALYPTO
2 THE PROMISE
3 THE HOLIDAY
4 THE MESSENGERS
5 NIGHT at the MUSEUM

DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price: P75 / 80 (046) 416-4332

1 THE FOUNTAIN
2 LITTLE CHILDREN
3 GHOST RIDER
4 THE PROMISE

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P 90 (045) 892-2348

1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 BABEL
4 THE CLEANER

IMUS

Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8186

1 LITTLE CHILDREN
2 THE PROMISE
3 TROIKA
4 GHOST RIDER
5 HANNIBAL RISING
6 EPIC MOVIE

STARMILLS

Ticket Price: P75 / 80 (045) 875-1927

1 HANNIBAL RISING
2 BLOOD and CHOCOLATE
3 THE PROMISE
4 LITTLE CHILDREN
5 BABEL
6 GHOST RIDER

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 GHOST RIDER
2 APOCALYPTO
3 The CURSE of the GOLDEN FLOWER
4 THE PROMISE
5 TROIKA
6 THE HOLIDAY

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P60.50/67.50/70.50 (033) 336-8070

1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 The CURSE of the GOLDEN FLOWER
4 APOCALYPTO
5 THE MESSENGERS
6 ARTHUR and the INVISIBLES

Gish's lasting legacy remembered

By Behn Cervantes

GISH. Had artistic control over her films.

I SWITCHED ON THE TELEVISION set early one morning. The station was showing "Sweet Liberty," directed and starred in by Alan Alda, with co-stars Michelle Pfeiffer and Michael Caine.

Not a bad cast, I thought. When the opening credits rolled and I saw "and Miss Lilian Gish" on the screen, I was hooked.

I have long been a fan of Lillian Gish. Early on, I had admired her in films like "The Cobweb," Vincente Minnelli's 1955 psychological drama starring Richard Widmark, Lauren Bacall, Gloria Grahame and Gish. She made her first film in 1912.

Quiet strength

I was in awe of her quiet strength and subtle approach to acting—she was quite a revelation. She didn't resort to histrionics. When she played a pivotal role in Charles Laughton's sole directorial attempt, "The Night of the Hunter," I was floored by her spiritual aura. In my book, Laughton's thriller about a deranged minister chasing two innocent kids is one of the most suspenseful films I have ever seen.

Articles written about Tinseltown's Silent Film era dedicate sizeable portions to D.W. Griffith's admiration for Gish. Lillian and her sister, Dorothy, had successful careers in Hollywood, but it was the former who became Griffith's favorite.

Meager income

The Gish sisters acted to supplement the meager income of their family after their drifter father abandoned them. Their ambitious mother turned the pretty pair into stage actresses. Lilian had a mind of her own, she required artistic control over her films.

In the days when producers and directors held sway, Lillian demanded and got what she wanted. She was devoted to her mentor (Griffith), but she amicably broke working relations with him over a salary dispute in the late 1920s.

Thereafter, she produced and starred in films like "La Boheme" and "Scarlet Letter."

Sister

In 1920, she directed her sister, Dorothy, in "Remolding Her Husband," while she starred in films produced by minor companies that allowed her to exercise artistic control over scripts and directors.

She chose directors like King Vidor and Victor Sjostrom over more commercial directors. Since she opted for artistry over commercial appeal, her films did not do well at the box office. So, with the entry of Greta Garbo, the studios dropped her as a "sexless antique" in 1928.

Soon after, Lillian turned her back on Hollywood and went back to her first love: the legitimate stage.

Lillian was active even in her 90s, and starred in "Sweet Liberty" in 1986. Alan Alda must be a Gish fan. Her last film was 1987's "The Whales of August." She died at age 97 in 1993.

'Saan Nagtatago si Happiness?' at SM digital theaters March 7

THE MUSICAL-COMEDY was Cinemalaya's topgrosser last year.

"SAAN NAGTATAGO Si HAPpiness?" is coming to the big screen at all SM digital theaters nationwide starting March 7. A box-office hit in last year's Cinemalaya film festival, this light and breezy semi-musical *cum* comedy tackles man's elusive search for happiness in typical *Pinoy* fashion.

It stars veteran stage actor and singing champion, Andy Bais, in the role of Tikyo, an ice cream vendor searching for his lost mother.

Sentiments

The movie was hailed by juror Kidlat Tahimik, the father of local independent cinema, for capturing the sentiments and longings of ordinary Filipinos.

In fact, Tahimik handed his special Bamboo Camera award to Mediarevolution's digital indie.

Lending support to the talented singer-comic are veteran movie and television actors, Ricky Davao, Lou Veloso, Caridad Sanchez, Nanette Inventor, Rez Cortez, Noni Buencamino, January Isaac, "Little Big Star's" child sensation, Mica Torre, and 2006 Singapore film fest best actor winner, Elijah Castillo.

Set in a decrepit urban tenement, the movie shares insights about love, faith and the beauty of life despite the hard times.

As Bais explains: "The film is meant for the whole family. It has wacky moments, but at the same time, its dramatic highlights will touch viewers' hearts."

PRINT MORE AT 50% LESS.
BUY AN HP LASERJET 1020 PRINTER AND GET YOUR NEXT TONER FOR HALF THE PRICE.

The HP LaserJet 1020 Printer is an affordable laser printer for the cost-conscious office. It delivers high-quality LaserJet printing in a compact size, and at a price any business can afford. So get the HP LaserJet 1020 Printer now and find out how affordable it is to enjoy high-quality laser printing with a 50% discount on your next toner.

Promotion Mechanics:
Enjoy 50% off on your next black toner when you purchase an HP LaserJet 1020 Printer from January 01 to February 28, 2007. Present promotion stickers from specially marked HP LaserJet 1020 Printers, together with completed discount voucher and proof of purchase to participating dealers to get the 50% rebate.

HP LASERJET 1020 PRINTER
P8,799
- Up to 15 ppm (letter) & 14ppm (A4) print speed, black
- First page out in less than 10 seconds
- 600 X 600 dpi with HP Resolution Enhancement Technology (RET)
- 2MB RAM
- Up to 5,000 pages monthly duty cycle
- Hi-speed USB 2.0 Port

1-800-1441-6688
or (632) 867-3556
ph.contact@hp.com

invent

Based on suggested retail price of PhP3,600.00 (actual price may vary) • Promo not applicable to volume purchases or registered projects • Redemption valid until April 30, 200
©2007 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. The HP Contact Center is available Mondays thru Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m
Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 5633, Series of 2006

Film version of popular novel falters

By Noelani Torre

BASED ON THE 1939 NOVEL OF THE same title by John Fante, the film, "Ask the Dust," has an impressive pedigree. Its source, though not a bestseller, has achieved cult status in the years since its publication.

Director Robert Towne rediscovered the novel while he was writing "Chinatown," fell in love with the material, and planned to turn it into a movie.

Goal

Now, after three decades, he has achieved his goal—but the question is: Has he succeeded in converting this compelling piece of literature into film?

The proof, as they say, is in the pudding, and at first "taste," the film version seems very tasty. After all, what could be more appealing than a film written by Towne himself, starring two hot leads (Colin Farrell and Salma Hayek), and a beautifully shot setting?

All of these elements contribute to a nice surface gloss. But, as you get deeper into the movie, you realize that, despite the presence of talented people, things just *don't* seem to work.

Set in Depression-era Los Angeles, the film describes the "lean days of determination" of one Arturo Bandini (Farrell), an aspiring writer, a second generation Italian-American, and a "lover of man and beast alike."

Proud, inexperienced, and angry with himself and the world, Bandini finds himself in the City of Dreams—trying to make his own dream of fame and fortune come true. Then, he meets a girl, Camilla Lopez (Hayek), a waitress in a café where he goes to spend his last nickel.

Their relationship gets off to a strangely violent start, and they soon commence a love-hate relationship. So, it's more or less a love story, though apparently, the focus is different in the novel. The characters are complicated and difficult. You're *not* really meant to like Bandini, but Towne makes the mistake of trying to make him likable.

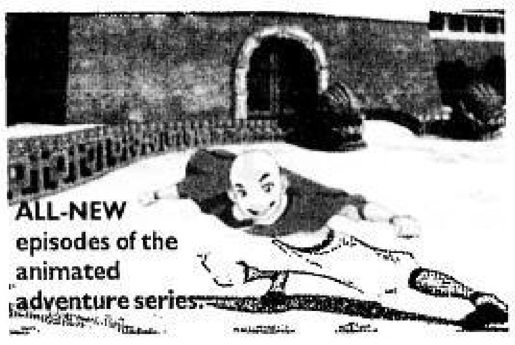
Problem

Or perhaps, it's the actor's problem: Farrell doesn't really fit the role. He's not edgy enough, and he's the sort of actor who requires more physical action. He doesn't quite capture the inner turmoil of an artist raging with writer's block.

Hayek plays her usual "fiery" Mexican woman. The best performance in the film, in fact, belongs to Idina Menzel, who possesses all the passion that the other actors—and the movie, as a whole—lack.

MONTAGE

'Avatar' specials



ALL-NEW episodes of the animated adventure series.

NICKELODEON KICKS OFF ITS special programs for March with "The Legend So Far," a 12-minute Jump-On Special of "Avatar: The Legend of Aang," at 5 p.m. on March 1, and 11 a.m. on March 3. Flashback on the adventures throughout the Avatar world on the way to the ultimate destination, the Northern Water Tribe.

A one-hour special, "The Siege of the Nation," takes viewers to the North Pole on March 10 at 11 a.m. and March 13 at 2:30 p.m. Plus, all-new episodes of "Avatar" will be telecast at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays starting March 17.

On March 12 at 7 and 10 a.m., view new episodes of "Lazy Town's" "sport-acular" adventures with Stephanie and your favorite exercise superhero, Sportacus.

And "Four Eyes" also telecasts new stories at 12:30 and 7 p.m. every weekend beginning March 24.

'Salcedo Nights'

The CCP, Barangay Bel-Air and the Women of Bel-Air present the Salcedo Nights concert series at 7 p.m. today at the Jaime Velasquez Park, Salcedo Village, Makati City.

Featured performers are the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, soprano Rachelle Gerodias, and "Philippine Idol" finalists, Jan Nieto and Gian Magdangal. With direction by Monino Duque and musical direction by Jesse Lucas. Call 832-5094 or 899-6509.

'Vina Morales: Showgirl'

The repeat performance of the hit "Vina Morales: Showgirl" concert will be staged tonight at the Araneta Coliseum. Floy Quintos directs, and guests include Ogie Alcasid, Ai-Ai delas Alas, Shaina Magdayao and Jay-R Siaboc. Call 911-5555.

Alexandru Tomescu

Romanian violinist Alexandru Tomescu pays tribute to Filipino violin greats, Ernesto Vallejo, Carmencita Lozada and Redentor Romero tonight at 8 at the Philamlife Theater. Call 900-7023.

'España Extension'

Ballet Philippines caps its 37th season with "Neo-Filipino; España Extension," a dance celebration that shows why Filipinos are regarded as the "Latin Americans of Southeast Asia." Choreographers include Bam Damian, Caetano Veloso, Alden Lugnasin, David Russo and James Laforteza. Performances are on March 2-4. Call 551-0221 or 832-1125 loc. 1405.

'Kabul Express'

Screenings of the film, "Kabul Express," at Robinsons Galleria have been moved to Feb. 28-March 6. Tickets dated Feb 21-27 are still valid.

'The Pursuit of Happyness'

Will Smith's exceptional starrer, "The Pursuit of Happyness," will have sneak previews on Feb. 26 and 27 in selected theaters. Smith and his son, Jaden, have received lavish praise for their performances in the inspiring drama.

'Word of Mouth'

The Philippine Literary Arts Council holds "Word of Mouth," an evening of performed poetry, at 6:30 p.m. on Feb 27 at the CCP Main Gallery.

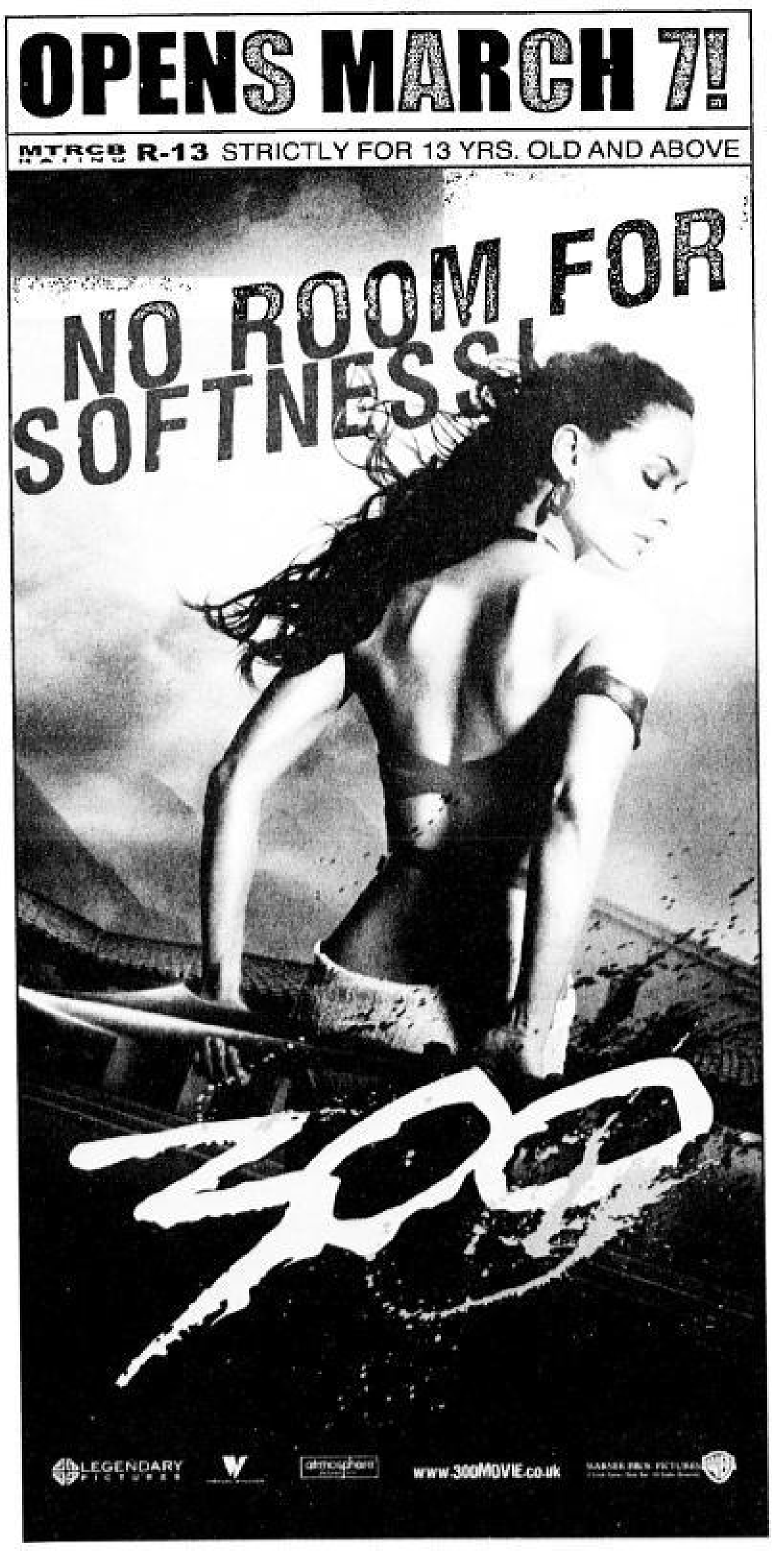
'Concert at the Park'

At 6 p.m. tomorrow, "Concert at the Park" at the Rizal Park open-air auditorium features these dance groups: Quezon City Ballet, the Kawilihan, University of San Agustin, Iloilo, the UE Dance Troupe, the PNU Kislap Sining Dance Troupe, and the Bayanihan, the Philippines' national folk dance troupe.

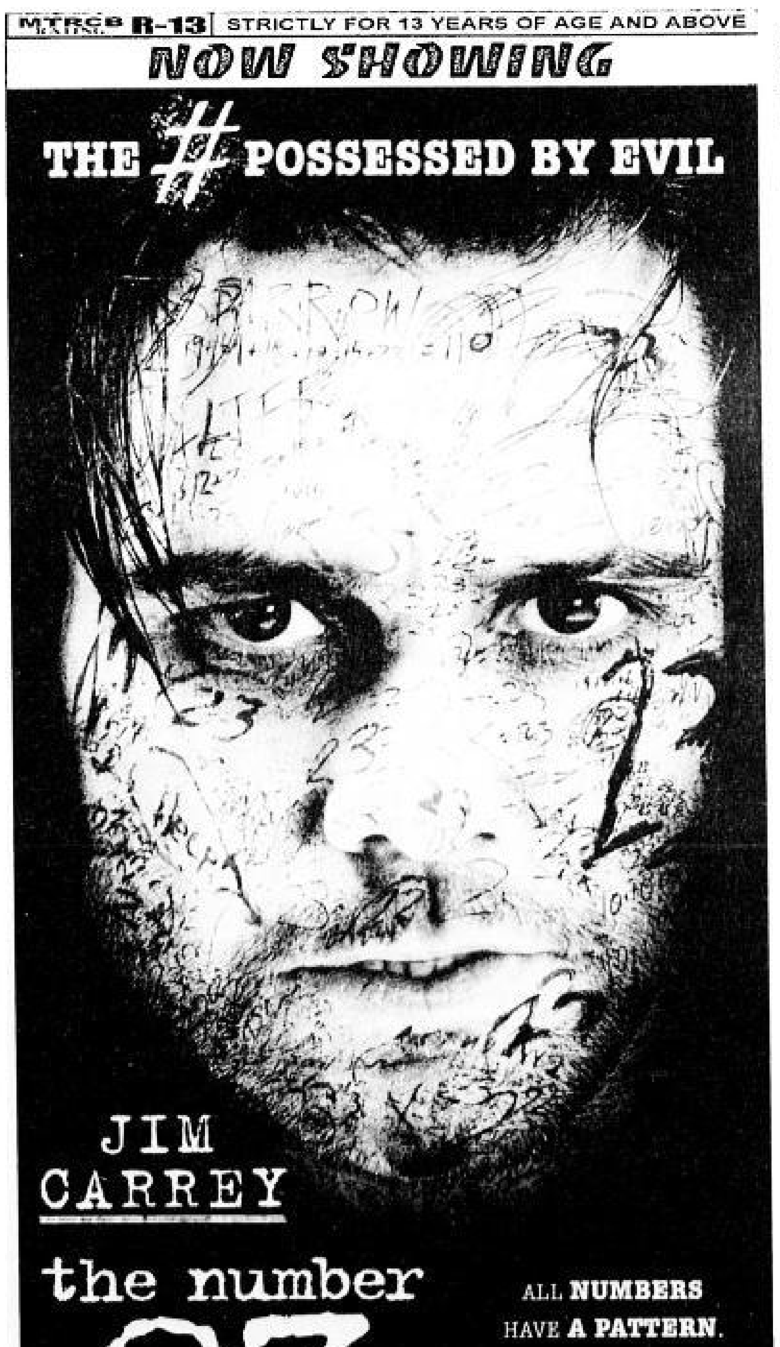
Movies on TV

On HBO, March 1 at 2:30 p.m., "Made in Heaven." March 2 at 4:30 p.m., "Lackawanna Blues." March 3 at 6:30 a.m., "Bopha!" March 4 at 8:15 a.m., "Dolores Claiborne."

On Cinemax, March 1 at 7 p.m., "Trading Places." March 2 at 8:15 a.m., "Rebel Without A Cause." 1:40 p.m., "Alfie" (1966). March 3 at 5:15 p.m., "The Stepford Wives." March 4 at 2 p.m., "Apt Pupil."



OPENS MARCH 7!
MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YRS. OLD AND ABOVE



MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
NOW SHOWING
THE # POSSESSED BY EVIL
JIM CARREY
the number 23
ALL NUMBERS HAVE A PATTERN.
ALL PATTERNS CONTAIN A MESSAGE.
ALL MESSAGES REVEAL A DESTINY.

SATURDAY *Special*

SNEAK PREVIEW

WATANABE. Puts a tender human face on a hateful façade.

Eastwood reveals reverse image of war and heroism

By Rito P. Asilo

"LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA," CLINT EASTwood's superlative companion piece to his engaging war drama, "Flags of Our Fathers," reflects on the morality of war and man's contrasting definitions of heroism: Is fighting for one's country always synonymous to dying for it?

This time, Eastwood observes a shift in perspective—the Japanese's—as his movie recounts how the unconventionally nonconformist General Kuribayashi (Ken Watanabe) and his vastly outnumbered men held off for 35 days the American invasion of Iwo Jima, the Japanese island that stood between the overwhelming American military force and Japan's main islands, by digging an astounding network of 5,000 caves and tunnels during World War II. (The Japanese soldiers were expected to hold out for no more than five days.)

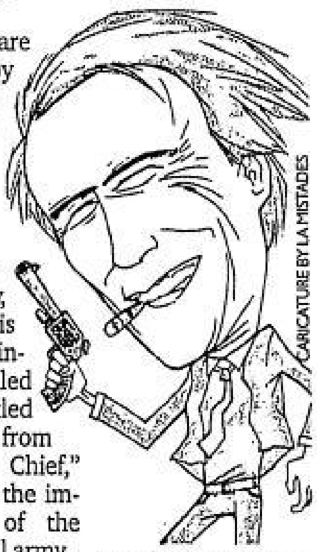
Unnerving

While the film's blood-soaked images of carnage and *hara-kiri* make for an unnerving viewing experience, it's the stories of its Japanese characters that make the movie soar to dramatic heights—particularly that of baker-turned-soldier, Saigo (Kazunari Ninomiya), whose desire to stay alive for his wife and newborn daughter outweighs his willingness to die for his country.

Their stories are strung together by the letters they send their loved ones back home as they await the invading American forces. Kuribayashi's lonely, loving letters to his son and wife, for instance, are culled from a volume titled "Picture Letters from Commander in Chief," found long after the imminent defeat of the Japanese imperial army.

Despite its lengthy running time, the film is

EASTWOOD/ E4



EASTWOOD. One-two punch from the prolific director.

Show biz and politics do mix

By Nestor U. Torre

NOW THAT THE 2007 CAMPAIGN season has begun, quite a number of people and prospective voters have expressed their dismay at the number of show biz stars or spouses of entertainment luminaries who have decided to run for public office.

What, they lament, is the country's political process coming to? —Well, nowhere much, really: It's (show) business as usual!

Plus factors

Fact is, in this country, show biz and politics *do* mix, and have done so for many decades—so, what's all the fuss and bother about? That they *should* is a question and a problem, but that they *do* is a fact—for the simple reason that elections here are won partly (mainly?) by means of popularity and name recall—plus factors that stars already enjoy, without having to spend millions to attain, as other politicians must.

Even before stars began to run for public office, they were hired by politicians to perform or appear at their rallies, and thus draw crowds for them.

After a while, the stars finally get zapped by this belated bolt from the blue: Hey, if I can make a *politico* win, why don't I run for office myself? —Why not, indeed?!

The first big star to aspire for high public office was movie king Rogelio dela Rosa. He made

SHOW/ E4

happy to be ahead!

A+

AHEAD TUTORIAL & REVIEW

the leading and most awarded tutorial & review center in the Philippines

KATIPUNAN
426-0034 to 36
0917-8911187
GREENHILLS
722-7258, 722-8152
0916-3675984
GALLERIA
631-1100, 636-0881
0915-9809393
DAGUPAN
(075) 515-8588
0920-9507229
MANILA
321-0208, 0922-8985263
ALABANG
info@aheadph.com
www.aheadph.com

tutorial for all ages, subjects, and levels • advancement classes • preschool, high school, and college entrance tests review • IELTS • TOEFL • • Basic & Advance English Training

*This is **Mille Luce**. It's a community nestled at the highlands of Antipolo.*

An Italian-inspired estate surrounded by lush trees, green green grass, and perfumed with cool mountain breeze. It's home to dreamers. It's sanctuary to romance. It's life at greater heights.

Mille Luce offers four themed phases to suit your taste. Each home is exquisitely designed to suit your need.

They rest above naturally contoured landscapes engineered with precision.

Outside your home, a multi-purpose clubhouse, and rows of shops and diners serenade your walk around Mille Luce as well. They bring you various lifestyle pleasures to keep you flying high.

At night, celebrate with the stars as you gaze upon the lights of Metro Manila. Only a place high enough can let you enjoy this.

Live Life at Greater Heights only at

Mille Luce
Antipolo

Call 718 1093 to 94
www.crownasia.com.ph

CROWNASIA
Your home of choice.

How to get to Mille Luce :

Via Marcos Highway- From Marcos Highway, turn right at the intersection (Masinag Market should be on your left). You're now on Sumulong Highway. Turn right on Circumferential Road. Go straight, then turn right when you reach the first Triangle mark. Go straight again, turn left when you see the second Triangle mark. Go straight. (You will arrive at the intersection with an I-Mart convenience store and a Wendy's restaurant on your left, and a Uniwide store on your right). Turn right to M.L. Quezon Avenue. Turn right at Mille Luce drive and you're there!

Via Ortigas Extension- From Ortigas Avenue, go straight all the way to Ortigas Extension. Turn right when you reach the Circumferential Road marked by a Triangle. (You'll arrive at an intersection with an I-Mart convenience store and a Wendy's restaurant on your left, and a Uniwide store on your right). Turn right toM.L.Quezon Avenue. Turn right at Mille Luce drive and you're there!

Join us as we celebrate the blessing of our model unit "Umbriel", this Saturday, February 24 '07.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

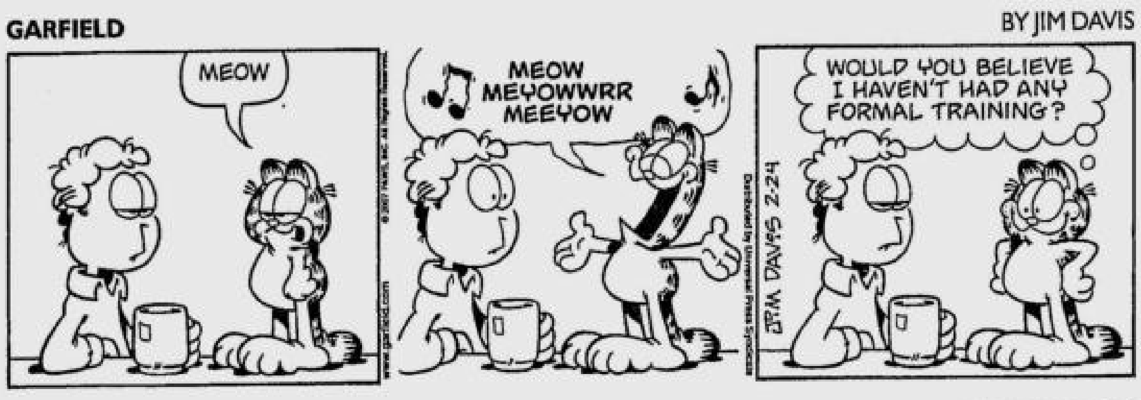
ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2007

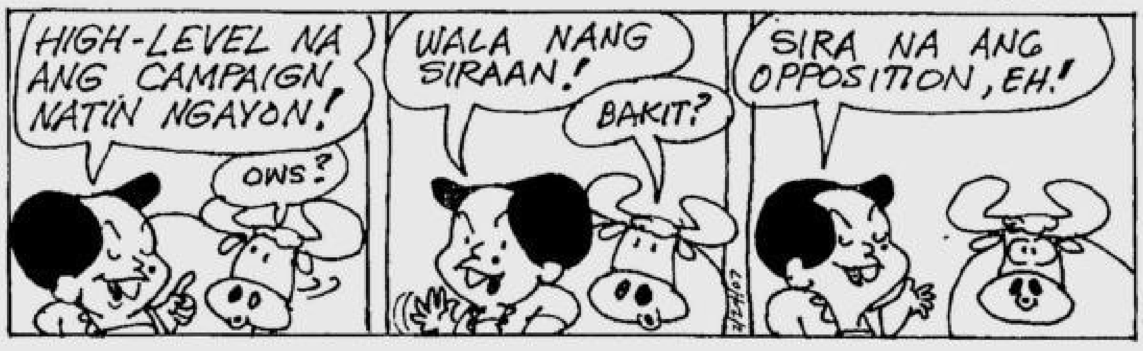
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


MEOW
MEOW MEYOWWRR MEEYOW
WOULD YOU BELIEVE I HAVEN'T HAD ANY FORMAL TRAINING?
JIM DAVIS 2-24

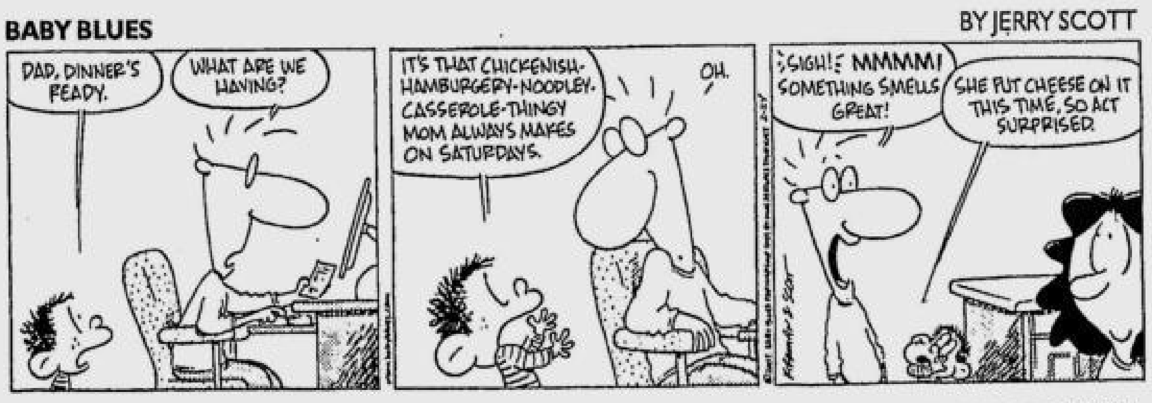
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HIGH-LEVEL NA ANG CAMPAIGN NATIN NGAYON!
OWS?
WALA NANG SIRAAN!
BAKIT?
SIRA NA ANG OPPOSITION, EH!

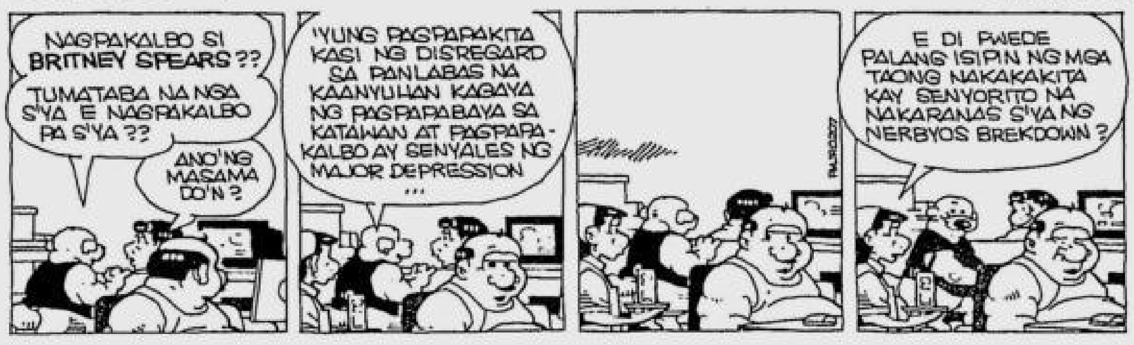
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DAD, DINNER'S READY.
WHAT ARE WE HAVING?
IT'S THAT CHICKENISH-HAMBURGERY-NOODLEY-CASSEROLE-THINGY MOM ALWAYS MAKES ON SATURDAYS.
OH.
SIGH! MMMM! SOMETHING SMELLS GREAT!
SHE PUT CHEESE ON IT THIS TIME, SO ACT SURPRISED.

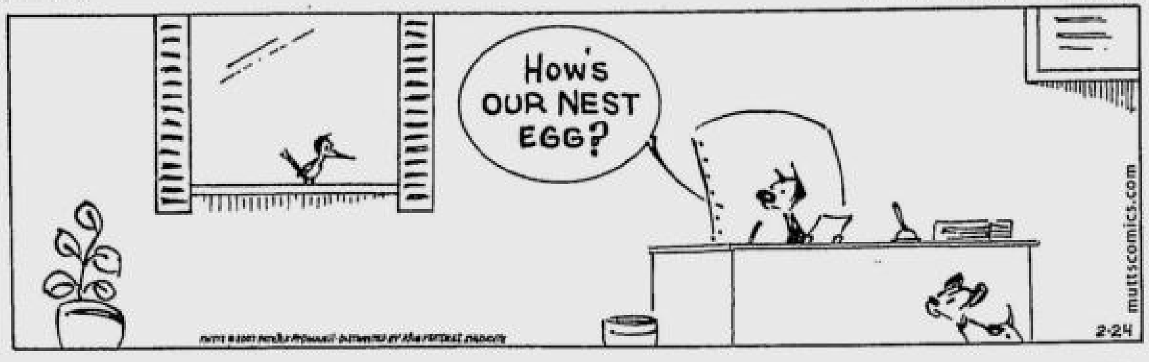
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAGPAKALBO SI BRITNEY SPEARS??
TUMATABA NA NGA S'YA E NAGPAKALBO PA S'YA??
ANO'NG MASAMA DO'N?
'YUNG PAGPAPAKITA KASI NG DISREGARD SA PANLABAS NA KAANYUHAN KAGAYA NG PAGPAPABAYA SA KATAWAN AT PAGPAPAKALBO AY SENYALES NG MAJOR DEPRESSION ...
E DI PWEDE PALANG ISIPIN NG MGA TAONG NAKAKAKITA KAY SENYORITO NA NAKARANAS S'YA NG NERBYOS BREKDOWN?

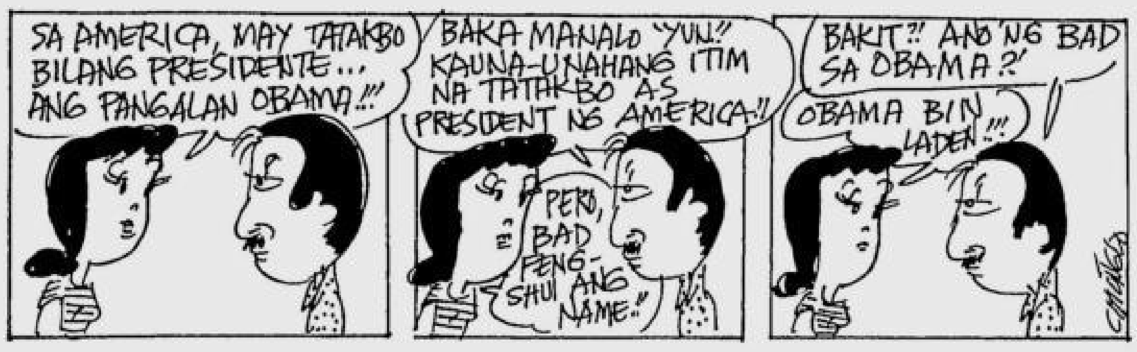
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


How's OUR NEST EGG?
muttscomics.com
2-24

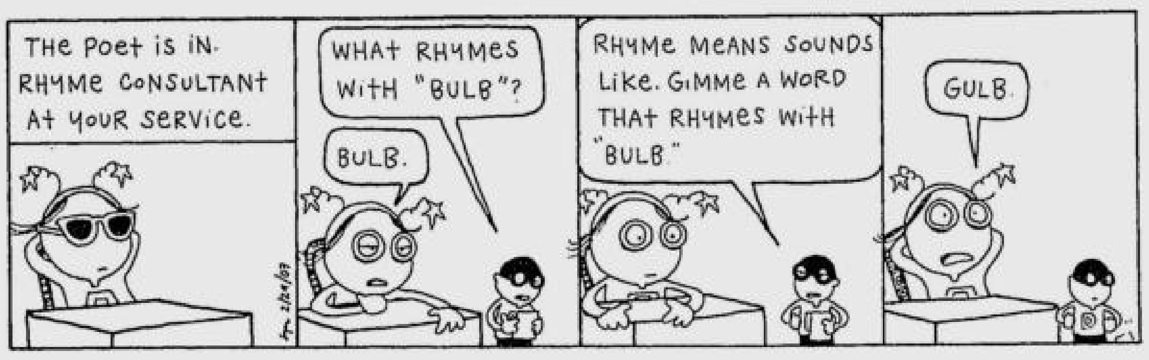
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SA AMERICA, MAY TATAKBO BILANG PRESIDENTE... ANG PANGALAN OBAMA!!!
BAKA MANALO 'YUN! KAUNA-UNAHANG ITIM NA TATAKBO AS PRESIDENT NG AMERICA!
PERO, BAD FENG-SHUI ANG NAME!
BAKIT?! ANO'NG BAD SA OBAMA?!
OBAMA BIN LADEN!!!

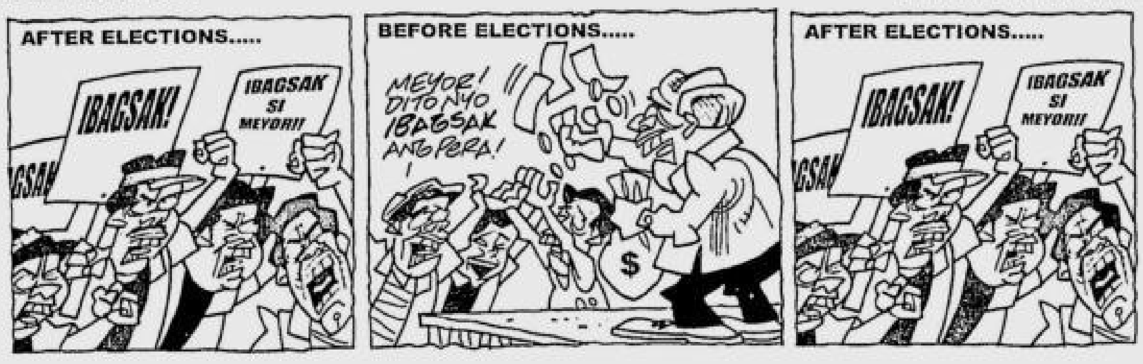
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


The Poet is IN. RHYME CONSULTANT At YOUR SERVICE.
WHAT RHYMES WITH "BULB"?
BULB.
RHYME MEANS SOUNDS LIKE. GIMME A WORD THAT RHYMES WITH "BULB."
GULB.

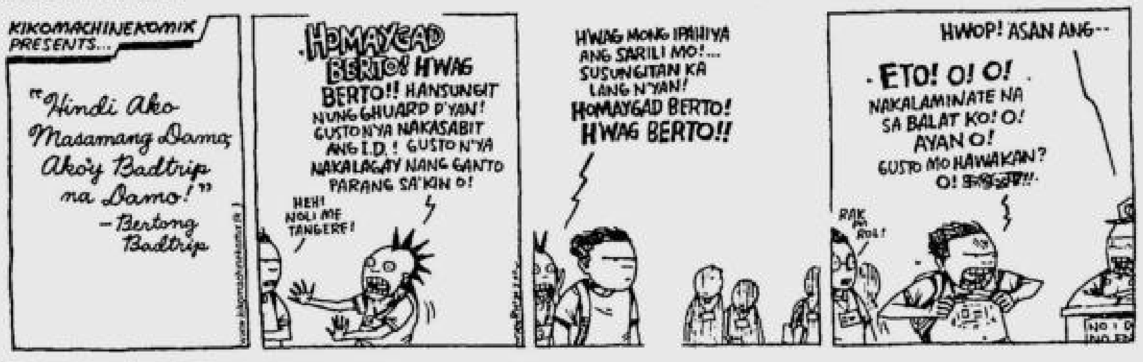
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


AFTER ELECTIONS.....
IBAGSAK!
IBAGSAK SI MEYOR!!
BEFORE ELECTIONS.....
MEYOR! DITO NYO IBAGSAK ANG PERA!
AFTER ELECTIONS.....
IBAGSAK!
IBAGSAK SI MEYOR!!

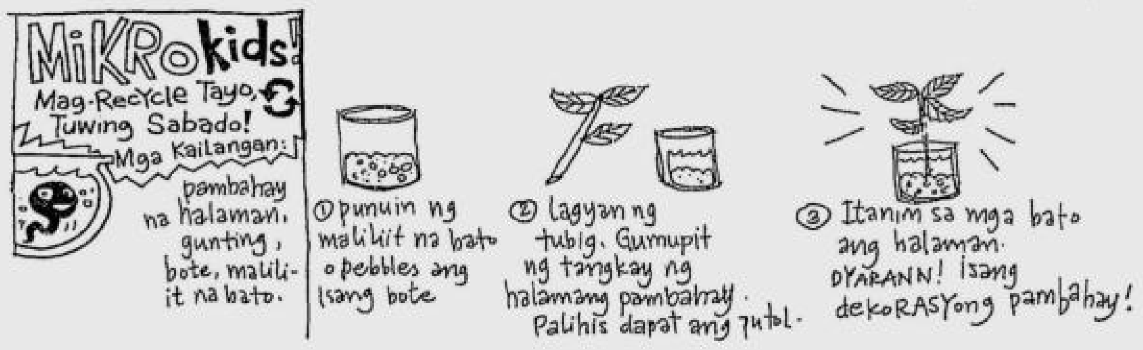
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINEKOMIX PRESENTS...
"Hindi Ako Masamang Damo; Ako'y Badtrip na Damo!" –Bertong Badtrip
HOMAYGAD BERTO! HWAG BERTO!! HANSUNGIT NUNG GHUARD D'YAN! GUSTO N'YA NAKASABIT ANG I.D.! GUSTO N'YA NAKALAGAY NANG GANTO PARANG SA'KIN O!
HEH! NOLI ME TANGERE!
HWAG MONG IPAHIYA ANG SARILI MO!... SUSUNGITAN KA LANG N'YAN! HOMAYGAD BERTO! HWAG BERTO!!
HWOP! ASAN ANG--
ETO! O! O! NAKALAMINATE NA SA BALAT KO! O! AYAN O! GUSTO MO HAWAKAN? O!
RAK EN ROL!

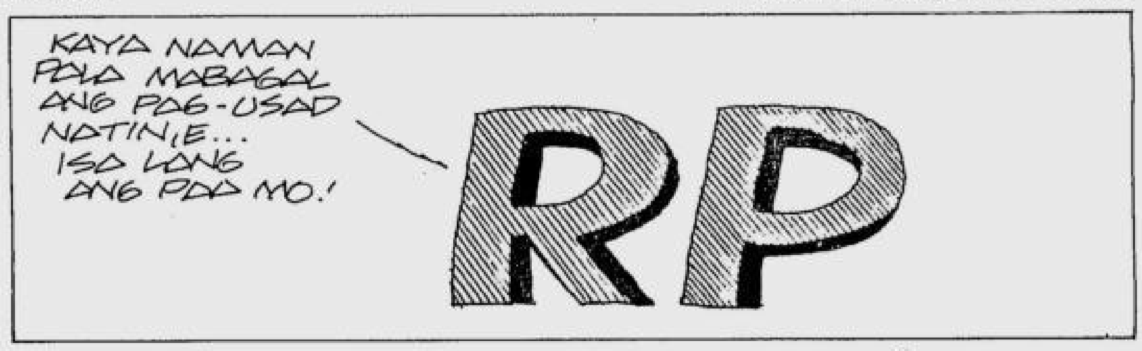
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKROkids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan: pambahay na halaman, gunting, bote, malili-it na bato.
① punuin ng maliliit na bato o pebbles ang isang bote
② lagyan ng tubig. Gumupit ng tangkay ng halamang pambahay. Palihis dapat ang putol.
③ Itanim sa mga bato ang halaman. DYARANN! Isang dekoRASYong pambahay!

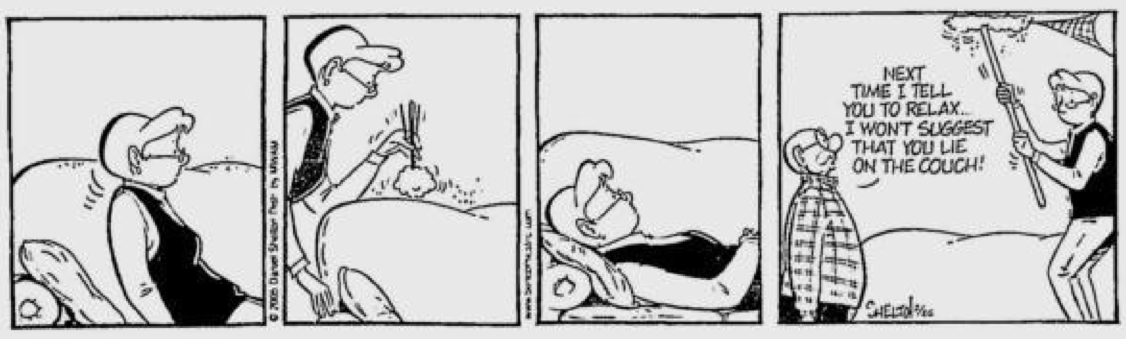
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

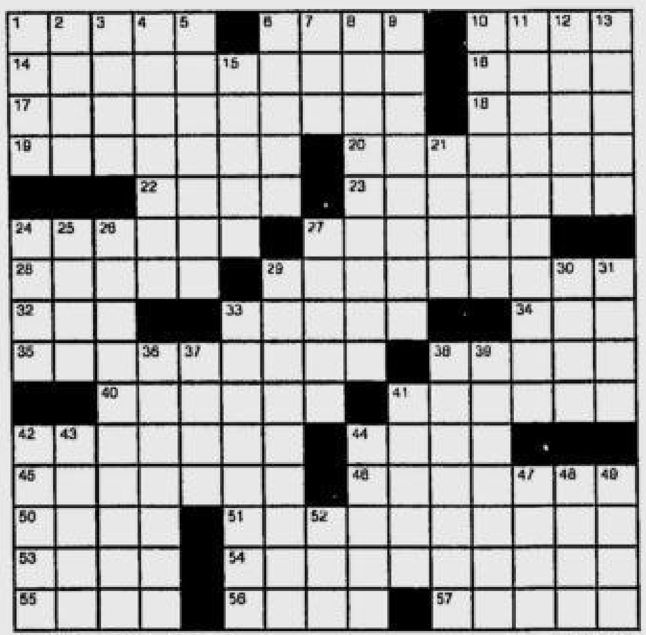

KAYA NAMAN PALA MABAGAL ANG PAG-USAD NATIN, E... ISA LANG ANG PAA MO!
RP

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


NEXT TIME I TELL YOU TO RELAX... I WON'T SUGGEST THAT YOU LIE ON THE COUCH!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Arlan & Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL

2/24/07

ACROSS
1 Annapolis frosh
6 Sticking stuff
10 Some Wharton degs.
14 Tart lozenges
16 Abner's drawer
17 French fries alternative
18 Falco of "The Sopranos"
19 Exhausted
20 Barry Levinson's Best Picture
22 Long-legged wader
23 "Atlas Shrugged" author
24 Police symbol
27 The Wizard of Menlo Park
28 Past perfect, e.g.
29 Shown lustrously
32 Knack
33 Scholar's backing
34 Afore
35 Outback flier
38 Blacksmith's workplace
40 Map key
41 Cash hit, "__ Prison Blues"
42 Came to light
44 Shallow crossing
45 Radio pioneer
46 Capital of Maine
50 Jai __
51 Sunday supplement staple
53 Sarazen of golf
54 Help-line caller's need
55 Mach+ jets
56 Birthday separation
57 Heaved breaths

DOWN
1 Do field work
2 "Jay-walking" comic
3 Kuwait's ruler
4 Backwoods
5 Dignify
6 Breakfast side
7 Chaney of "The Wolf Man"
8 Adding the bells and whistles
9 Bacon or Lamb
10 Three-time Wimbledon champion
11 Gaucherie
12 Concerning bees
13 While away
15 Ancient Welsh sorcerer
21 Part of MIT
24 Wild guess
25 Deli sub
26 Narrow-minded
27 Serengeti grazer
29 Highfalutin
30 Cogito __ sum
31 Judge
33 Packers' home
36 Kindnesses
37 Prefab waffle
38 Needs a prompt
39 Leakeys' African gorge
41 Tetrads
42 Webzines
43 Rams and bucks
44 Bed-of-nails person
47 Lift up one's voice
48 Part of M.I.T.
49 Leaves breathless
52 Explorer Johnson

Friday's Puzzle Solved

C	U	B	I	S	M		S	T	P		O	R	E	S
S	P	A	R	T	A		K	E	A		R	A	Z	E
A	S	G	A	R	D		I	N	T	E	R	M	I	X
		B	E	A	M		P	E	P	E		R	O	Y
S	S	E		F	E	D		T	E	R	S	E		
T	A	G		E	D	E	N		T	I	N	M	A	N
A	L	B	A		M	E	A		P	E	A	R	C	E
P	A	I	L		I	R	A	Q	I		P	I	T	S
L	A	G	G	E	D		C	U	T		S	M	U	T
E	M	B	A	L	M		P	I	P	E		R	A	E
		O	L	M	O	S		P	O	T		O	L	D
E	N	G		E	D	N	A		T	H	E	M		
D	O	B	E	R	M	A	N		P	A	T	R	O	L
T	N	U	T		U	K	E		U	N	T	U	N	E
V	E	G	A		D	E	W		T	E	E	M	E	D

(C)2007 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

2/24/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a risk-taker because you're open and giving. You care about people. However, please develop a healthy self-interest, and don't sacrifice too much for others. It's a joy to labor for those you love, but if you don't take care of yourself, you'll be of no use to anyone. This year could be one of the most powerful years of your life. Expect a miracle!

Birthdate of: Billy Zane, actor; Edward James Olmos, actor; Paula Zahn, journalist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Get out and visit others, talk to siblings, shop for necessities, take short trips and run errands. Even though you're working behind the scenes, you have to take care of daily business.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Today your attention turns to money, finances and earnings. You might also need to take care of your own possessions. Many of you have collections that need your attention.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): The Moon is in your sign today, which makes you a bit more emotional than usual; however, it also brings a little bit of extra good luck your way. Whee!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Work behind the scenes today. Solitude in enjoyable surroundings will please you. You need time alone to take a breather and get your bearings.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Chat to friends and members of organizations today. It's a good day to schmooze. Talk to others about your hopes and plans for the future, because their feedback will help you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Quite likely, you'll do something that draws attention to you today. Therefore, be aware of how you look and act. People notice you! Conversations with VIPs, parents and bosses are significant.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Try to do something different today. You want to explore something new. Your sense of adventure is aroused. You're also hungry to learn something.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Take care of red-tape details regarding insurance matters, estates, taxes and debt. Catch up on things you've been putting off or avoiding. (You'll feel better if you tackle these monsters.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Conversations with partners and close friends are important today. Because the Moon is opposite your sign, you'll have to go more than halfway when dealing with others

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Do whatever you can to feel better organized at work and at home. Work today for better results tomorrow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Playful activities with children, fun flirtations, entertaining diversions and sports appeal to you today. Make sure you have some fun. You deserve it!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Focus on family members, home and your domestic scene today. You might want to buy something beautiful for where you live, or perhaps a gift for a loved one.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

4		3				1		
				5				
9		2				7		4
			6		9			
	4						6	
			1		2			
5		9				2		6
				7				
		8				9		5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

2/24

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

5	6	1	9	7	8	4	3	2
4	9	7	2	3	1	6	8	5
3	8	2	6	5	4	1	7	9
9	2	5	8	6	3	7	4	1
8	4	3	1	9	7	2	5	6
7	1	6	5	4	2	3	9	8
6	7	9	4	2	5	8	1	3
1	5	4	3	8	6	9	2	7
2	3	8	7	1	9	5	6	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Tours, Leisure & Chow
Cedo, Design

ckalagayan@inquirer.com.ph
897-8808 local 238

Where to Stop Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Astor Hotel
7835 Makati Ave., cor Eduque St., Makati City
Tel 750-7500
Email: sales@bestwesternastoncom
www.bestwesternastor.com

ASTORIAPLAZA
Astoria Plaza
15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City 1600
Tel 687-1111 Fax 910-0370
Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

City Garden Hotel-Makati
Makati Ave., cor. Kalayaan St., Makati City
Tel. (02) 899-1111 Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: makati:citygardenhotels.com

Edsa Shangri-La
Edsa Shangri-la Manila
1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Manila
Tel. 633-8888
www.shangri-la.com

Executive Plaza Hotel
1630 A Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel 523-1000 /fax 525-8979
Email: sales@executiveplazahotel.com
www.executiveplazahotel.com

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9970 to 71/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704
Email: goldenpineholte@skyinet.net

HOTEL VENIZ BAGUIO
Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700 to 03
Fax (074) 446-0704
Email: hotelveniz@skyinet.net
www.hotelveniz.com

Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

Las Palmas
Las Palmas Hotel Manila
1616 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel. (632) 521-1000/ Fax (632) 523-6917
www.laspalmashotel.com.ph

THE PENINSULA
The Peninsula Manila
Corner of Ayala and Makati Avenues, Makati City
Tel: (632) 887 2888 Fax: (632) 815 4825

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

RENAISSANCE
Renaissance Makati City Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

PALM PLAZA
Palm Plaza Hotel
Pedro Gil corner M. Adriatico Sts., Manila
Tel. (02) 522-1000 Fax 525-8013
www.palmplazahotel.com

SOMERSET
Somerset Salcedo, Makati
H.V. dela Costa St., cor. L.P. Levista St., Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
Tel. 888-6668 Fax: 888-6655

SOMERSET
Somerset Millennium, Makati
No. 104 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Tel. 888-0505 Fax: 812-7721

SOMERSET
Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax: 818-8254

The Malayan Plaza
Quantum Serviced Suites
ADB Avenue cor. Opal Road
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. (02) 706-0055 Fax (02) 635-2969
www.quantumsuites.com

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com

The Regent Hotel
Elias, Angeles St., Naga City
Tel. (6354) 4722626 / Fax (6354) 4722525

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

Century Park Hotel
Century Park Hotel
599 P. Ocampo St. Malate, Manila
Tel. 528-8888 Telefax 528-1811
Email: information@centurypark.com.ph

City Garden Suites
City Garden Suites
1158A Mabini St., Ermita, Manila
Tel. 536-1451 Fax. 524-4844
Email:cityreservations@citygardenhotels.com

CROWNE PLAZA
Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila
ADB Avenue cor. Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City
Tel. 633-7222
Email: www.ichotelsgroup.com

CSB HOTEL
Arellano Ave., cor. Estrada St., Malate, Manila
Tel. (02) 400-3333 Fax 400-7401
Email: customerservice@csbhotel.com

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Evercrest Golf Club Resort, Inc.
Km. 72 Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas
Tel. (02) 712-9293 to 98
Fax (02) 712-9299
Manila Sales Office 733-3822/733-9955

GARDEN PLAZA
Garden Plaza Hotel & Suites
1030 Belen St., Paco, Manila
Tel. (632) 522-4835/ fax (632) 522-4840

Grand Regal Hotel Davao
J. P. Laurel St., Lanang, Davao City
Tel (382) 235-0888 / (382) 234-3858

Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila
1588 Pedro Gil corner M.H. del Pilar, Malate, Manila 1004
Tel. (632) 245 1234 Fax (632) 247 8688
manila.casino.hyatt.com

Mactan Island Resort
Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Oakwood
Oakwood Premier Ayala Center
6th Floor, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
Tel. (63.2) 729.8888 loc. 8101 Fax: : (63.2) 728.0000 / echua@oakwood..com.ph
www oakwood.com

oasis
La Union Country Resort Hotel, Inc.
Sevilla, City of San Fernando, La Union Phil.
Tel. (072)242-5621/Fax. (072) 242-5631
www.oasiscountryresort.com
oasis@sflu.com

Subic
Subic International Hotel
Subic Bay, Free Port Zone, Olongapo City
Tel. 243-2222 / Fax 243-0852
www.subichotel.com

SUMMER PLACE HOTEL
Summer Place Hotel
Km. 288 Marcos Highway, Baguio City
Tel. :(074) 446.0560, 446.5400-01
www.SummerPlaceBaguio.com

Taal Vista Hotel
Managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties
Km. 60 Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (632) 886-4325, (6346) 413-1000
Email : taalvista@fuegohotels.com

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

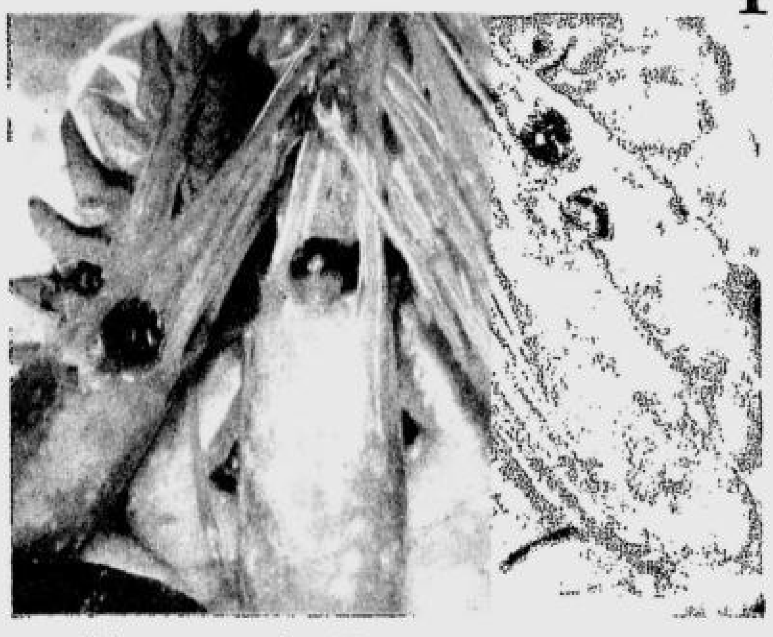
Makati Palace Hotel
P. BurgoS cor. Caceres St., Makati City, Phils
Tel. (632) 899.03.44 Telefax (632) 897.50.50 FAX(632)896.96.33
Email: info@makatipalacehotel.com.ph
makati_palace@yahoo.com
Website: www.makatipalacehotel.com.ph

Manila Pavilion
P. Burgos cor. Caceres St., Makati City
Tel. 526-1212 / Fax: 526-2552
www.manilapavilion.com.ph

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (632) 340-4888/fax (632) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Authentic Japanese dishes concocted with love and passion



YUSEKE KATAYAMA, THE MAN behind the well-loved Japanese restaurant, Tsukiji, has two passions – golf and Japanese food.

Twenty years ago, Katayama journeyed to the Philippines to pursue his love for golf. While he was in the country, teeing off in different golf clubs in the locale, he discovered that there weren't good restaurants offering authentic Japanese cuisine at that time. With this, he moved on to a more challenging course and evolved from a golfer to a restaurateur. Together with his wife, Minny Katayama, and some Filipino partners, he opened Tsukiji Japanese Restaurant in Milky Way building, Pasay Road, Makati, giving Filipinos a taste of authentic Japanese cooking. Tsukiji became a huge success and enjoyed loyal patronage from diners with discriminating tastes, an elite set which included dignitaries, celebrities and other famous personalities.

Now, the restaurant takes on a new course, emerging as Century Tsukiji, the banner Japanese restaurant of Century Park Hotel in Malate, Manila. Katayama explains "We found a new home and new partner to back up Century Tsukiji. As such, we will be able to serve more of the delicious food items cooked in traditional Japanese way, which our customers love. We will also introduce exciting additions to the menu to give you a broader selection and a deeper experience of Japanese cuisine."

According to Mr and Mrs Katayama, the menu of Century Tsukiji echoes the four seasons of Japan - winter, spring, summer and autumn, as each period is marked with a distinct assortment of culinary delights. The daily catch of fishes for example varies during winter and summer, in the same way that different vegetables are harvested during spring and autumn. Century Tsukiji guarantees diners a gastronomic adventure that will delight the palate and evoke pleasure.

Only the finest and freshest ingredients are used in preparing every item in Century Tsukiji's menu – most of them are imported daily from Tsukiji, one of the largest wholesale markets in Tokyo, where one can find the freshest produce – from vegetables and fruits to meats, fishes and other marine products. Daily deliveries are made through Century Park Hotel's affiliation with Philippine Airlines, as both enterprises are run by business tycoon, Lucio Tan. Moreover, a formidable trio stands behind Century Tsukiji – led by Yuseke Katayama as consultant, Kamura Seiji Kamijo as teppanyaki chef, Shinji Furukawa as hot kitchen and tempura chef, and Yamazaki Seiko as the sushi chef.

Classic, all-season Century Tsukiji offerings that diners must try are the Gindara Teriyaki, succulent and flaky gindara fish topped with a rich sweet and tangy teriyaki sauce; Kaiso Salad, a concoction of crisp greens and crab fillet; Hotate Kaiyaki, a delectable fire-grilled scallops in butter and sake wine; Wagyu Sukiyaki, a sumptuous soup with Ohmi beef (a brand name which is a place in Japan) and assorted Japanese vegetables; Wagyu Tataki, a tasty Ohmi beef with a savory tataki sauce; Jo Chirashi, a colorful main course with kinshi tamago, fresh vegetables, and sushi rice as main ingredients; an indulging Shokado Bento, a complete meal from appetizer to dessert which includes sashimi, tempura, and a filling dobi mushi soup; and not to be ignored are the fresh selection of sushi and sashimi such as Shime Saba, Tai Sashimi, Ramachi Sashimi, Amaebi Sashimi, and Kasi Taraba Sushi.

Century Tsukiji prepares and cooks every dish with skill, art, and grace, making for an experience that is genuinely and distinctly Japanese. Everything that is served in Century Tsukiji is created with love and passion for great food. Katayama invites everyone to visit Century Tsukiji for a taste of truly authentic Japanese cooking.

For inquiries and reservations, please call 528-5835.

The Century Park Hotel is owned and managed by Maranaw Hotels and Resort Corporation.

Renaissance offers weekend 'Spa Escape'

THE RENAISSANCE MAKATI City Hotel, Manila offers a relaxing and rejuvenating weekend room package designed for those wanting to get away from the hustle and bustle of city life. "Spa Escape" offers luxurious accommodations at a deluxe room inclusive of a sumptuous buffet breakfast for two, and a complete head-to-toe spa treatment for two. The two-hour spa treatment consists of a deep cleansing lavender lift facial which purifies and nourishes, harnessing the therapeutic benefits of aromatherapy to balance and restore skin; and an aromatherapy full body massage with a choice between shiatsu or Swedish styles. The spa treatment is expertly done by spa specialists at the hotel's Marahai Spa or in the comfort of the guestroom. The Spa Escape Package is offered at $189+++ per night from Friday to Sunday.

For more information and reservations, call the Renaissance Makati City Hotel, Manila at 811-6888.

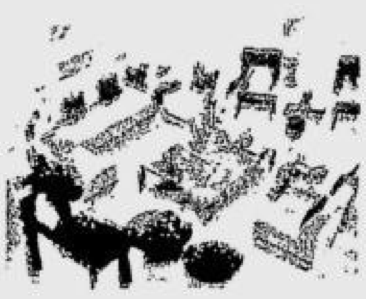
More value at City Garden Hotel Makati

GOOD NEWS TO BUSINESS travelers, City Garden Hotel Makati offers one of the best hotel services in Makati at a reasonable price and no service charge. Enjoy an overnight room accommodation for as low as P1,450+ per person on twin-sharing basis inclusive of free sumptuous buffet breakfast for two, free use of its open-air swimming pool at the Roof deck and its fully equipped Gym at the Penthouse. After a day of fun activities, try the Bamboo Bliss, a signature spa package at the newly opened Bamboo Massage & Spa at the Upper Penthouse.

For those after-holiday get-togethers and reunions, its Party Package comes for as low as P24,750+ inclusive of buffet menu or barbecue grill and discounts on drinks. Its wedding and debut packages come for as low as P59,000+ inclusive of a buffet menu for 100 persons, a cake, souvenirs, floral arrangements, and other amenities.

For dinner, do not miss the Roofdeck Bar & Grill. Offering sumptuous grilled specialties and appetizers, it has the best view of the metropolis at night.

For more details, City Garden Hotel Makati is located in Makati's restaurant strip at 7870 Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For reservations or inquires, call (02) 899-1111, or its domestic toll free number 1-800-101-GARDEN (427336), or at www.citygardenhotels.com .



One autumn lunch at G Hotel Manila by Waterfront

G HOTEL MANILA BY WATERfront recently hosted an autumn-inspired luncheon party for the Ambassador Corps to formally introduce the first boutique hotel concept in the Philippines. With real autumn trees, overlooking the blue waters of the Manila Bay in one cloudy noon, the guests all enjoyed the autumn repertoire of Philippine Opera Company while being satiated with an autumn menu carefully designed by chef Mar Tesalona.

"Our goal was to create a luncheon that encouraged conversation and partnering opportunities while wowing the crowd with a feeling of excitement," said Yuri Mangondaya, hotel manager of G Hotel Manila by Waterfront. "We created the autumn lunch party as a part of the signature events for G Hotel Manila, because the boutique hotel's Promenade (ball room) was designed to simulate different moods for different occasions highlighted by real interior thematic setup overlooking the waters as well as the dramatic setting of the Baywalk. It is simply an ideal setting for any thematic personalized parties."

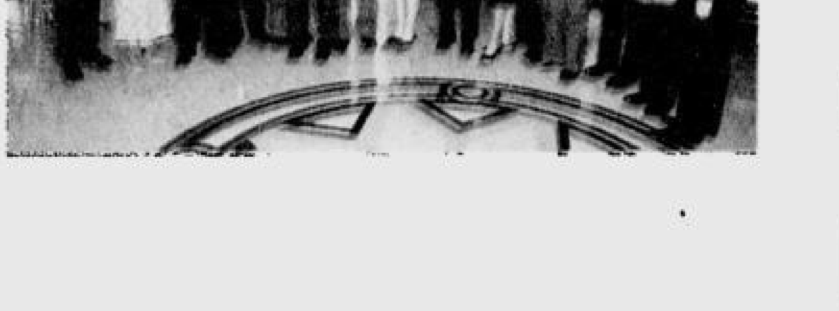
G Hotel Manila by Waterfront opened in November 2006. With a unique and unconventional black and white lobby, it was designed to introduce another hotel concept in the country. The result is overwhelming, having gathered a remarkable acceptance and repeat client bookings for G.

Staged at the hotel's Promenade at the seventh floor ballroom, the lunch started as the doors of the ballroom swung open, revealing two rich maple trees leading to a couple of more autumn maple trees that have slowly lost the richness of leaves. As guests moved into the ballroom, a ray of light embraced a mini autumn-opera stage, a couple of more steps came a grabbing variety of colors and textures. Glass containers each featuring autumn flowers with autumn fruits and nuts dramatically sit on each of the tables. Elegant gold tiffany chairs with earth-tone satin seats surrounded the tables donned in rustic orange shantung and mocha table napkins. All these complemented the autumn drama of the lunch party.

"According to guests, the highlight of the lunch came over dessert and coffee, when the opera singers entered the ballroom and rendered the different emotions of autumn through their repertoire. This will be just one of the personalized thematic parties that you can expect from G," says Yuri Mangondaya.

For more information on meetings or events at G Hotel Manila by Waterfront you may contact 525-0888, 687-0888 or e-mail g-hotel@waterfronthotels.net, msro@waterfronthotels.net.

G Hotel Manila is under the Corporate Management Group of Waterfront Philippines Inc, the country's largest Filipino-owned and managed first class hotel chain. It is the only hotel chain in the country that has presence in the key cities of the archipelago. In Manila, it operates the Manila Pavilion Hotel and Casino and G Hotel Manila by Waterfront, in Cebu it operates the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino and the Waterfront Airport Hotel and Casino Mactan, while in Davao it is represented by the Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao. Cumulatively, the company operates close to 1550 rooms, employs 1560 employees, and has the biggest gaming facilities with over 41,300 square meters of convention and gaming space.



Shape up at Dusit Hotel Nikko's DFiT

SHAPE UP IN MAKATI'S newest fitness studio - DFiT. DFiT is Dusit Hotels & Resorts branded fitness chain in the Asia-Pacific region. Now open at the second floor of Dusit Hotel Nikko, DFiT offers the concept of "improved health, wellness and athletic skills" in the comfort of a deluxe hotel. The 973 square meters fitness studio, carries the best equipment designed for distinction to meet the different fitness goals and varying needs of its members. It features Life fitness strength and cardio equipment, cardio entertainment system, group fitness classes, outdoor aero classes, sauna and internationally qualified personal trainers. DFiT members will enjoy great privileges such as discounts in the hotel's specialty restaurants and unlimited use of the hotel's swimming pool amongst others. DFiT is open exclusively to hotel guests and members. For fitness appointments and membership inquiries, please call 816-4112 or 867-3333.

Kids' flick keeps spirit of book intact

By Noelani Torre

ROBB and Hutcherson give full play to their sense of wonder in "Bridge to Terabithia."

THE TRAILER FOR THE CHILDREN'S FILM, "Bridge to Terabithia," is a bit misleading. It would have you believe that the movie is all about two children discovering a secret, enchanted world peopled by strange and wonderful creatures painstakingly rendered by CGI.

If you watch this movie for its special effects, then you will be disappointed. There are hardly any—though what little exists is impressive enough (care of the folks from Weta).

Themes

In truth, the film is more than just another hip and essentially soulless special effects extravaganza. It's a delicately made movie, the likes of which we don't often get to see in this day and age of spin and gimmickry. Its themes are simple but they're profoundly moving in their simplicity.

Based on the classic Newberry Medal-winning novel by Katherine Paterson and with a script written by her son, David Paterson, this children's yarn tells the story of fifth-grader Jess (Josh Hutcherson), a loner and an artistic boy who is bullied at school. He also doesn't get any love at home from his temperamental different father.

Themes of friendship, the power of the imagination, and eventually, loss, which are not often rendered as lucidly in other movies for the same age-range are predominant throughout the film.

Jess forges an unlikely friendship with Leslie (Anna Sophia Robb), who is the new, eccentric rich girl in town (whose parents who *don't* even own a TV set). The pair escape the real world by forging a creek using an "enchanted" rope, and end up in a forest—Terabithia, a magical world peopled by a myriad fanciful creatures.

The film showcases pitch-perfect performances from its two leads, and also from the actress who plays Jess' younger sister, May Belle (who garnered most of the laughs from the audience).

Original material

This movie has stayed true to its original material, and has kept the spirit that made the book so special intact. The special effects are there only to enhance its tale. The story itself is so powerful that few embellishments are necessary.

Filmmakers should make more productions like this. It reaches out and touches its viewers' hearts. It stays with you long after the movie is over.

National Artist and Drama King reunite in 'Faces'

AFTER A LONG PERIOD, you may now add to the very short list of artistic partnership between the country's Drama King, Christopher De Leon. and National Artist for Film and Broadcast Arts, Eddie Romero: "Faces of Love." Though lightweight compared to their previous projects, it's a delightful and insightful romantic drama-comedy.

Romero first handled a youthful Boyet in what is now considered one of Philippine cinema's best movies, "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?," which came to fruition during the so-called "Golden Age of Philippine Movies."

Commentary

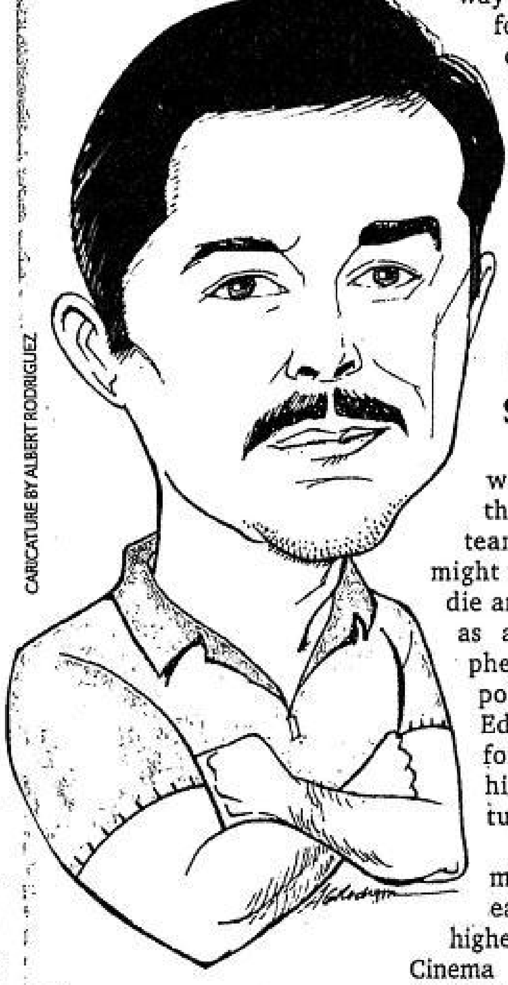
This was followed by "Kamakalawa," a fantasy film and a commentary on contemporary Filipino society. Then came the epic, "Aguila." (De Leon was joined by no less than Fernando Poe Jr., Amalia Fuentes, Charo Santos and Eddie Garcia.)

The list may be short, but the De Leon-Romero partnership has come a long way as far as their professional growth is concerned. When they were brought together for Romero's latest opus, the adrenaline rush rose high. In no time, the shooting of "Faces of Love" wrapped up like a breeze.

Swan song

Much as cineastes would want more of the duo's artistic team-up, the movie might well be director Eddie and Chris' swan song as a tandem. Christopher is venturing into politics, while *direk* Eddie is getting ready for the follow-up to his first digital feature.

Romero's brave cinematic experiments has earned him a "grade higher than A" from the Cinema Evaluation Board. Watch this endeavor come to life at theaters currently showing "Faces of Love."



CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

DE LEON. First worked with Romero in "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?"

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 THE NUMBER 23 10:45, 12:40, 3:05 5:30, 7:55, 10:25 R-13
CINEMA 2 MUSIC AND LYRICS 11:45, 2:25, 5:00 7:35, 10:10 PG-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 BRIDGE OF TARABITHIA 11:45, 2:05, 4:20 6:35, 9:00 GP
CINEMA 4 EPIC MOVIE 10:40, 12:55, 3:10 5:25, 7:40, 10:00 R-13
CINEMA 5 GHOST RIDER 10:45, 1:40, 4:30 7:20, 10:10 PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

March 08, 2007	EDNA LEDESMA	8:00 PM
	"DANCING W/ THE CHAMPIONS"	
March 16 & 23, 2007	SITTI ... IN LOVE	8:30 PM
March 30, 2007	"TABANG" PILITA C., SEC. JOEY LINA, SEC. ANGIE REYES, CHAIRMAN BAYANI F.	8:00 PM

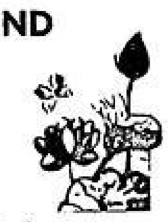
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00 PM
March 9, 2007	DAVE	8:30 PM
March 10, 2007	JOHN LESACA	8:00 PM
March 15, 22, 29, 2007	RAYMUND LAUCHENGCO	8:30 PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

How to avoid conflict

Lotus Pond



R. Valencia and S. Bismark

A WIFE ONCE SAID, "I KNOW I'M smarter than my husband!" But, her being smart didn't guarantee the success of their relationship. Fact is, they had many conflicts and arguments throughout their married life. The communication lines between them broke down because of pride and arrogance.

The world is full of conflicts and wars. The most common are those that occur in the household between husband and wife. Here are insights to lessen disastrous confrontations:

Limitations

1. **We are not omniscient.** We can't accurately read minds and hearts. It's not wise to judge others. Knowing our limitations allows us to accept the process of listening to each other. We don't jump to hasty conclusions. We listen before we speak.

2. **He who exalts himself shall be humbled.** Humility is the best policy. We are fallen souls temporarily caught in a web of material suffering. A humble person acknowledges his faults and weaknesses. Thus, he's able to seek solutions to problems. A boastful person does not seek a cure.

3. **Harsh words are like poisoned arrows.** Releasing them inflicts pain and heartache.

4. **Gentle words don't cost much, but they're worth a lot.** So, be generous with words that bring healing.

Journey

5. **Seek wisdom and learn the highest truths.** It doesn't matter how much material knowledge you have. If you are spiritually blind, you'll stumble and fall in your journey through life. Wisdom enlightens people and brings peace.

6. **We are not the center of the universe.** Consider what's pleasing to the Supreme Person and work for the welfare for His children. Compassion and caring uplift others, and they offer inner pleasure to the giver. That is how you find real happiness!

From homemade to gourmet
Add in LEA & PERRINS® Worcestershire Sauce and turn your Pinoy Bistek into a delectable Specialty of the House — without spending as much!
www.leaperrins.com

Melt-in-your-Mouth Pinoy Bistek

Serves 4
Preparation time: 30 mins.
Cooking time: 30 mins

Ingredients:
500 grams beef sirloin (with some fat), cut into beef steak slices and pounded
4 Tbsp flour
½ cup soy sauce
½ cup lemon/calamansi juice
1 Tbsp LEA & PERRINS Worcestershire Sauce
1 Tbsp freshly ground black pepper
2 potatoes cut into ¼ inch discs
2 onions sliced into thin rounds
6 Tbsp cooking oil

Procedure:
1. Mix soy sauce, lemon juice, LEA & PERRINS Worcestershire Sauce and black pepper in a large bowl.
2. Marinate beef slices in soy mixture for 30 minutes then drain, reserving the marinade. Lightly dredge beef slices in flour.
3. In medium hot oil, sear beef slices a few slices at a time for 30 seconds each side and set aside.
4. Pour off half the oil in the searing pan and sauté onions for a few seconds. Add in the potato slices and pour reserved marinade plus water and simmer for 20 minutes or till potato slices are soft.
5. Place beef slices back to the sauce and let simmer for 5 minutes more.
6. Serve immediately.

Make cooking more exciting with your very own Lea and Perrins apron! To win, simply answer this question:

Q: Aside from Pinoy Bistek, what other Pinoy dish can you cook with Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce?

Write your answer, name, address, telephone number and place of purchase at the back of any brown Lea and Perrins wrapper and send to:

Getz Brothers Phils. Inc.
5th floor, Ortigas Building,
Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City
1600, Metro Manila, Philippines

Deadline of submission of entries: February 28, 2007.
Only 500 recipients will receive an exclusive Lea & Perrins apron!
Promo runs from November 2, 2006 until February 28, 2007. Your exclusive Lea and Perrins apron will be mailed to you.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1291 Series of 2006

Show biz and politics...

From page E1

veteran *politicos* quake in their boots when he announced that he was running for president!

They breathed a huge sigh of relief only when "Roger" changed his mind and accepted an ambassadorship, instead.

But, other stars got the idea, and later opted to go the distance—albeit more slowly. Action superstar Joseph Estrada first ran for mayor of San Juan, made his reputation as an outstanding local official, next went from senator to VP, then all the way to president—until controversy felled him.

Presidency

The next big star to aspire for the presidency, Fernando Poe Jr., won the hearts of voters, but not the official polls. Aside from these top guns, scores of lesser lights ran for a host of other posts, with quite a number of them ending up in the victors' circle.

Through the years, however, the perception has grown that more show biz candidates are winding up in the losers' loop—a possible sign that voters are starting to wise up and are learning to separate the possibly competent from the merely popular.

That may not be everything, but at least, it cautions stars and starlets to work harder at their political careers. Which is why some luminaries are going back to school, to study public administration and other related subjects.

For this year's elections, the usual suspects are running for public office, with some key adjustments in the works, like Sen. Lito Lapid now opting to make his bid for Makati City mayor. Is the shift a sign he's realized that he isn't equipped to be a legislator and is better suited for local administration?

Not that other stars are shying away from national posts: Some weeks ago, many stars were being wooed to join the tickets, *not* because they were potentially terrific legislators, but only Cesar Montano and Richard Gomez have survived.

And there are many people who want FPJ's widow, the similarly stellar Susan Roces, to run for a high post, partly to keep the flame of her late husband's cause burning, but she has sweetly and wisely demurred.

Clout

Then, there are the *spouses* of stars, Kiko Pangilinan and Ralph Recto, both running for reelection as senators and banking on their own experience and credentials, but also helped by their wives' celebrity status and crowd-gathering clout.

The *other* side of the star-*politico* coin is even more instructive: Politicians who try to become celebrities themselves, in the hope that their increased popularity will boost their stock with voters.

It helps if they have stellar good looks, or a reasonable approximation thereof—but, if they don't, maybe they should tap into another latent wellspring in their psyches, and become comedians!

Eastwood reveals...

From page E1

more cohesive and focused than "Flags." It employs a sepia look that gives the production historical texture and intimacy. But, the colors—particularly the use of scalding hues of orange and crimson red—suddenly come alive when violence erupts. "Letters'" ruminative tone ironically provides a striking contrast to the unspeakable horrors of war, and further adds to its dramatic impact.

Insatiable quest

Watanabe puts a tender, human face on the hateful façade that has long haunted victims—Filipinos, included—of Japanese atrocities in the Pacific War. But, Ninomiya, who delivers the most powerful performance in the movie, shows that they are as much pawns as everybody else was in man's confoundingly insatiable quest for power and world domination.

The letter from the mother of a captive American soldier says it all: She seeks Divine Intervention for the speedy resolution of the armed conflict between the warring nations, and for the safe return of her young son—a universal prayer that knows no ideology, nationality or time, and a soul-stirring cinematic statement from the time-honed aesthetics of Clint Eastwood.

Golden statuette

On Oscar night, we're rooting for Martin Scorsese to finally get his long-overdue golden statuette for "The Departed," but Eastwood's excellent work in "Letters from Iwo Jima" (as well as Alejandro González Iñárritu for "Babel") clearly poses a threat.

So, here's a letter addressed to our favorite director: "Dear Clint, kindly sit this one out and make Martin's day, will you? You already have four of those trophies, anyway. Besides, Marty *can't* be 'America's greatest living director' if he doesn't have a single Oscar to show for it, can he?"